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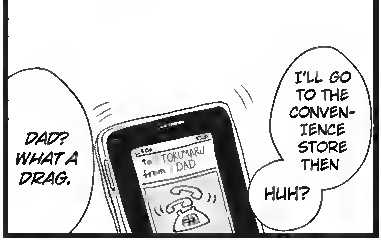
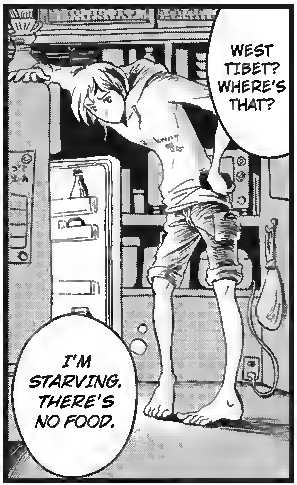
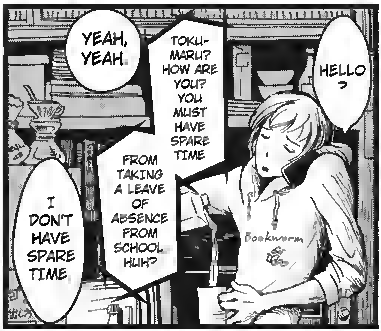
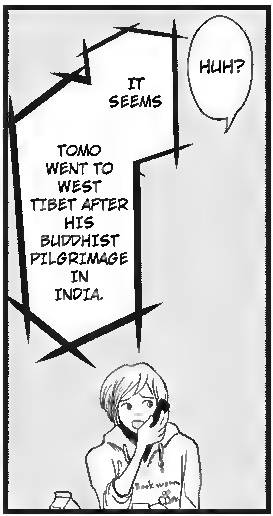

DAD? WHAT A DRAG.
to TOKUMARU
from DAD
I'LL GO TO THE CONVEN-IENCE STORE THEN
HUH?


WEST TIBET? WHERE'S THAT?
I'M STARVING. THERE'S NO FOOD.


YEAH, YEAH.
TOKU-MARU? HOW ARE YOU? YOU MUST HAVE SPARE TIME FROM TAKING A LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL, HUH?
HELLO ?
I DON'T HAVE SPARE TIME.
Bookworm

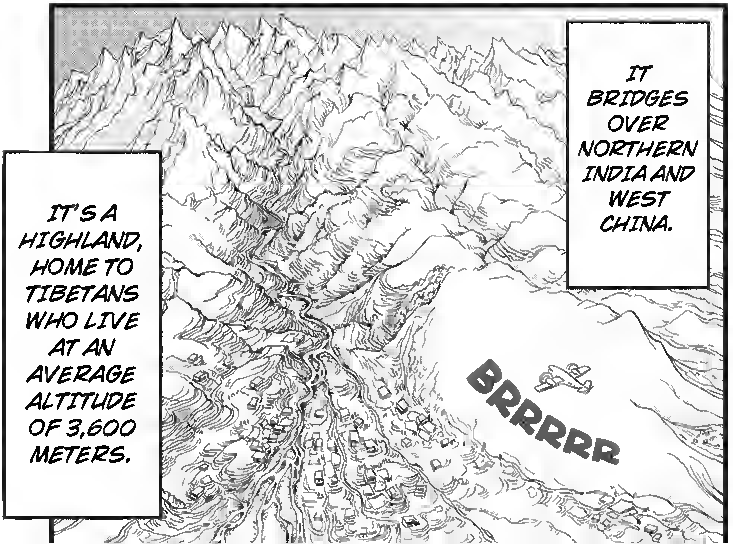

HUH?
IT SEEMS
TOMO WENT TO WEST TIBET AFTER HIS BUDDHIST PILGRIMAGE IN INDIA.
Bookworm

WILL YOU GO...
TO WEST TIBET ?
MILK
牛乳

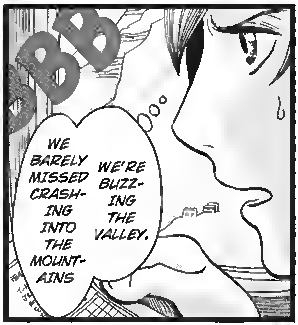
BUT I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO CONTACT HIM SINCE
PANT PANT
WHAT ABOUT SISTER-IN-LAW?
I HAVENT TOLD HER SHE WAS URGENTLY HOSPITALIZED FOR A THREATENED MISCARRIAGE
NEXT MONTH IS SHUN-CHAN'S 3RD YEAR MEMORIAL. WHAT IS TOMO THINKING?
TOMO-NII JUST SENT ME A WEIRD E-MAIL.
LIKE "HELP!"
WHAT ?!
... MAYBE SOME-THING HAPPENED TO HIM.
TOKU-MARU.
PLEASE GO AND SEARCH FOR TOMO.
HUH?!

The WHEEL of LIFE
CITY IN THE SKY - PART 1
KURANISHI

WEST TIBET ...
IT'S LOCATED ON THE EURASIAN CONTINENT. WEST OF THE TIBETAN PLATEAU AND THE HIMALAYAS.
CHINA
TIBETAN PLATEAU
THE HIMALAYAS
INDIA

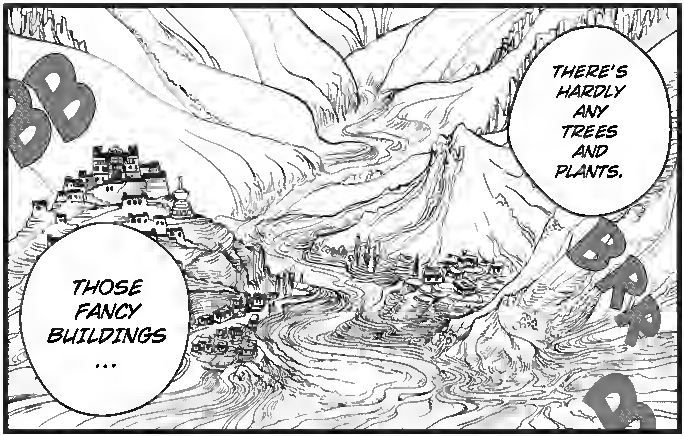

IT BRIDGES OVER NORTHERN INDIA AND WEST CHINA.
IT'S A HIGHLAND, HOME TO TIBETANS WHO LIVE AT AN AVERAGE ALTITUDE OF 3,600 METERS.
BRRRRR

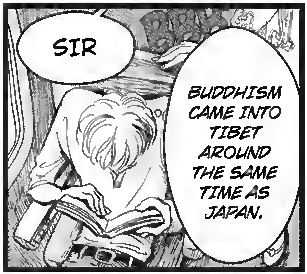
BRRR
BR-R-R-R
BBB
BBB
BRRR
SERIOUSLY?

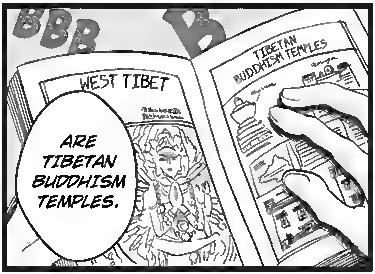

BBB
WE BARELY MISSED CRASHING INTO THE MOUNTAINS
WE'RE BUZZING THE VALLEY.

BBB
BBB
WEST TIBET
WOW,
I'VE COME TO SUCH A REMOTE PLACE.
SO THIS AREA IS INDIA, TOO?

THERE'S A VILLAGE IN EVERY VALLEY.


THERE'S HARDLY ANY TREES AND PLANTS.
BB
BRR
B
THOSE FANCY BUILDINGS ...


SIR
BUDDHISM CAME INTO TIBET AROUND THE SAME TIME AS JAPAN.

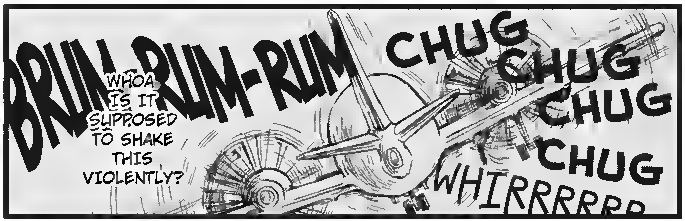

BBB
B
WEST TIBET
TIBETAN BUDDHISM TEMPLES
ARE TIBETAN BUDDHISM TEMPLES.

BRRR
RATTLE
CHUG
RATTLE
CHUG
CHUG
BBBB
WEST TIBET

BRRR
WE ARE PREPARING FOR LANDING. PLEASE FASTEN YOUR SEATBELT.
OH, OKAY. SORRY.
BRRR

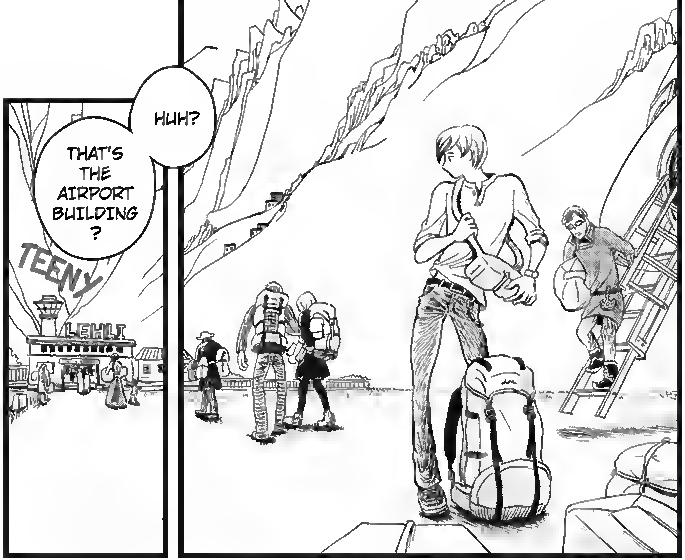
CHUG
CHUG
CHUG
CHUG
HUH?

CHUG
CHUG
CHUG
CHUG
BRRR
BBB
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
WHOA!


BRUM-RUM-RUM
WHOA, IS IT SUPPOSED TO SHAKE THIS VIOLENTLY?
CHUG
CHUG
CHUG
CHUG
WHIRRRRRR

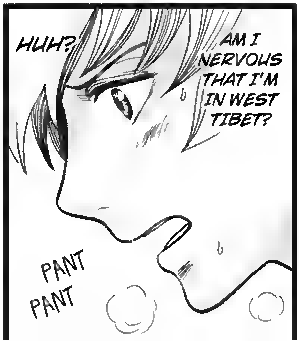
SWISH
WHIRRR
SCREEECH

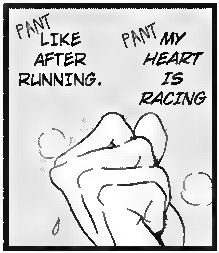
SSSHHHH
HFF
HFF
.....
.....
CLAP
THAT FREAKED ME OUT A BIT ..
CLAP
CLAP
YEAH!! EXCELLENT!!
GOOD JOB!!
PEE
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
PHEW
YEAH
THAT THEY BUILT AN AIRPORT ON A SMALL STRIP OF LAND BY A RIVER.
I'M IMPRESSED ...

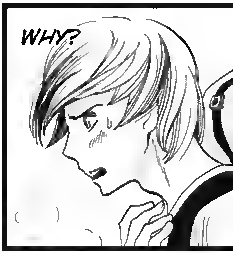

HUH?
THAT'S THE AIRPORT BUILDING?
TEENY
LEH.I.

PANT
PANT

OOMPH
I GUESS WE WALK THERE

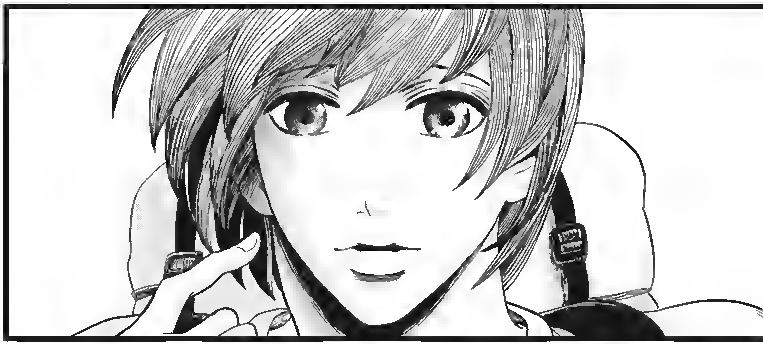

HUH?
AM I NERVOUS THAT I'M IN WEST TIBET?
PANT PANT


PANT LIKE AFTER RUNNING.
PANT MY HEART IS RACING

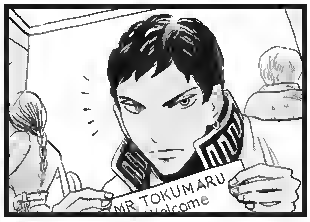

WHY?

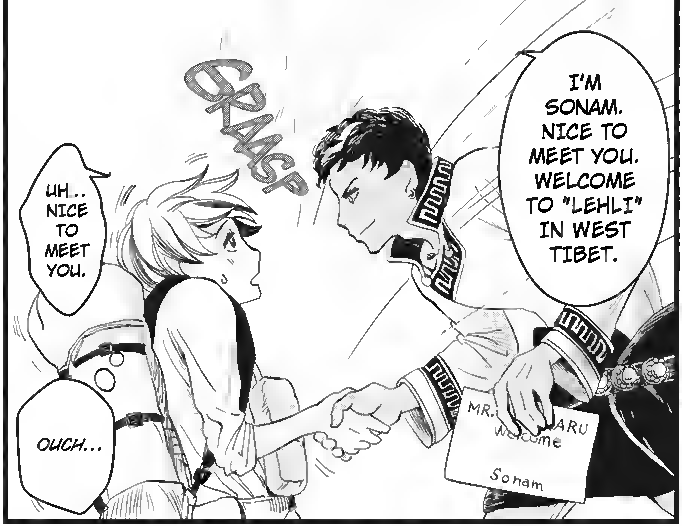
I SUDDENLY FEEL A LACK OF OXYGEN.
OXYGEN LEVELS AT THIS ALTITUDE IS TWO-THIRDS COMPARED TO FLATLANDS.
HUFF
PUFF
CAN THIS BE THE SO-CALLED ALTITUDE SICKNESS?
WEST TIBET
THIS PLACE IS HIGHER THAN MT. FUJI.
3800M ...
Welcome to West TIBET
Lehli
3380 m
THANK GOD I HIRED A JAPANESE-SPEAKING GUIDE.
THIS IS SCARY ...
ONCE I ADAPT TO THE ALTITUDE, I'LL BE FINE ..
SHEESH
ALTITUDE SICKNESS... SYMPTOMS CAUSED BY HIGHLAND AIR PRESSURE OR LOW OXYGEN. HEADACHES AND NAUSEA.. WORST CASES LEAD TO DEATH...
NO, NO. I CAME TO LOOK FOR MY BIG BROTHER. THERE'S NO TIME FOR THAT.
Sonam
GATE
SONAM... SOUNDS LIKE A GIRL'S NAME. WHAT IF SHE WAS A CUTIE?
AND WHERE CAN MY GUIDE BE?
HFF

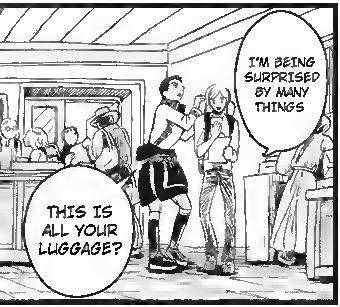
MR.TOKUMARU
Welcome

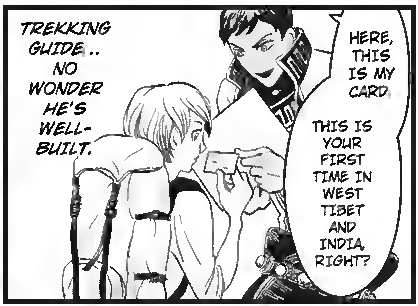


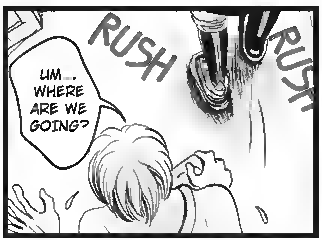
SONAM ...SAN?
PATTER
PATTER
MISTER TOKUMARU TOKUDA?


MR.TOKUMARU
Welcome

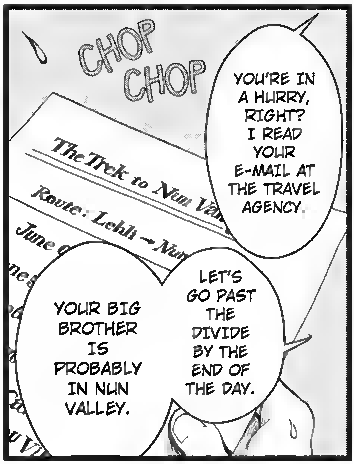

I'M SONAM. NICE TO MEET YOU. WELCOME TO "LEHLI" IN WEST TIBET.
GRASP
UH.. NICE TO MEET YOU.
OUCH...
MR. ARU
Welcome
Sonam


I'M BEING SURPRISED BY MANY THINGS
THIS IS ALL YOUR LUGGAGE?

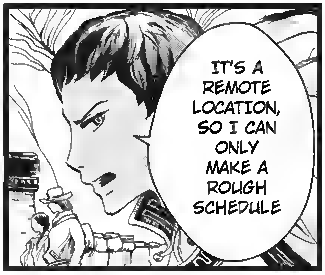

TREKKING GUIDE.. NO WONDER HE'S WELL-BUILT.
HERE, THIS IS MY CARD.
THIS IS YOUR FIRST TIME IN WEST TIBET AND INDIA, RIGHT?

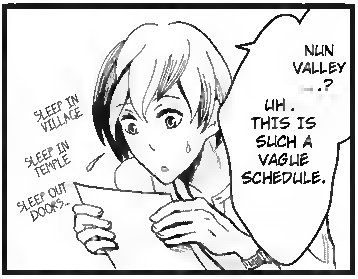

RUSH
RUSH
UM.. WHERE ARE WE GOING?

YEAH.
I'LL CARRY YOUR KNAPSACK. LET'S GO.

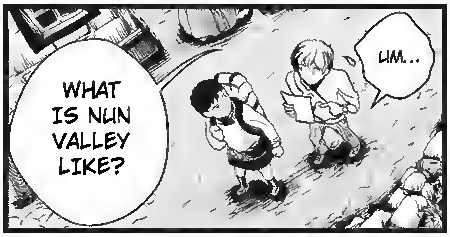

CHOP CHOP
YOU'RE IN A HURRY, RIGHT? I READ YOUR E-MAIL AT THE TRAVEL AGENCY.
LET'S GO PAST THE DIVIDE BY THE END OF THE DAY.
YOUR BIG BROTHER IS PROBABLY IN NUN VALLEY.

THE MARKET. TO BUY GOODS.
I WANT TO LEAVE BEFORE NOON.
HERE'S THE SCHEDULE.
The Trek to Nun Valley

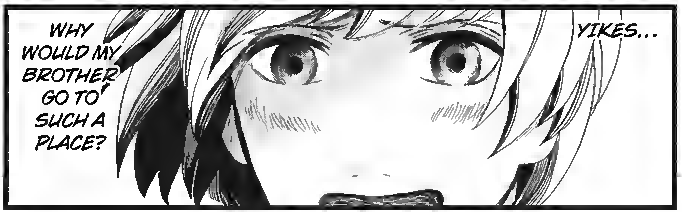

IT'S A REMOTE LOCATION, SO I CAN ONLY MAKE A ROUGH SCHEDULE


NUN VALLEY —.?
UH. THIS IS SUCH A VAGUE SCHEDULE.
SLEEP IN VILLAGE
SLEEP IN TEMPLE
SLEEP OUT DOORS.

……

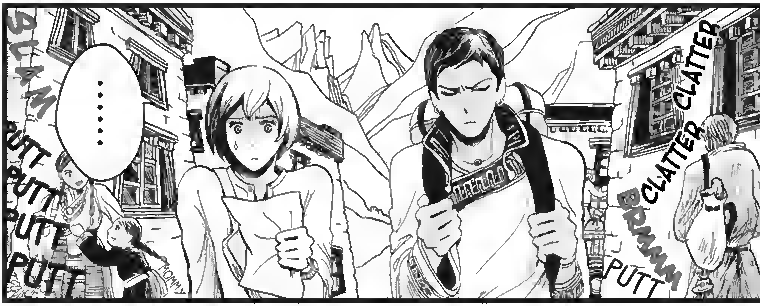

WHAT IS NUN VALLEY LIKE?
UM…

IT'S A RUGGED VALLEY NEAR THE BORDER THAT EVEN THE NOMADS RARELY VISIT.
NONE OF MY TOUR GUIDE COLLE-AGUES HAVE BEEN THERE.
WE FIGURED HE'S IN NUN VALLEY BECAUSE I'VE BEEN THROUGH THERE.

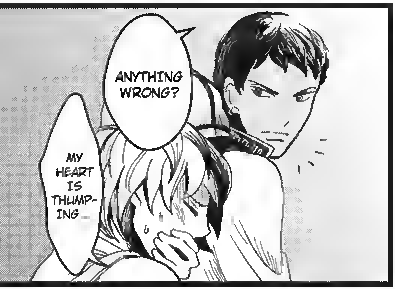

YIKES...
WHY WOULD MY BROTHER GO TO SUCH A PLACE?

UM...
WHY DON'T WE ASK THE POLICE FOR HELP?
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOUR BROTHER ...

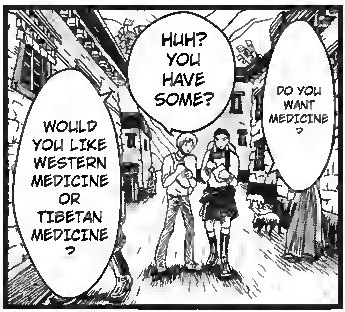
CLATTER
BUT MISSING TOURISTS OFTEN TURN OUT TO BE JUST MEDITATING WHILE THEY LOCK THEMSELVES AWAY.
THERE'S ALSO A SHORTAGE OF MANPOWER, SO UNFORTU-NATELY, THE POLICE WON'T REACT RIGHT AWAY.

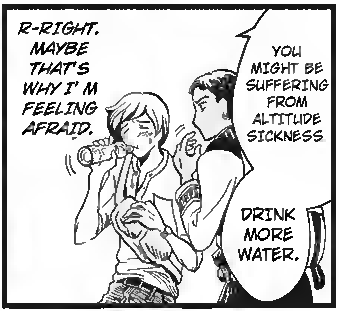

BLAM
PUTT
PUTT
PUTT
PUTT
.....
CLATTER CLATTER
BRMMM
PUTT

TO BE HONEST ...
PUTT
PUTT
I DON'T WANT TO GO TO THAT VALLEY.


ANYTHING WRONG?
MY HEART IS THUMPING...

PUTT PUTT
I DON'T LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT


HUH? YOU HAVE SOME?
DO YOU WANT MEDICINE?
WOULD YOU LIKE WESTERN MEDICINE OR TIBETAN MEDICINE?


R-RIGHT. MAYBE THAT'S WHY I'M FEELING AFRAID.
YOU MIGHT BE SUFFERING FROM ALTITUDE SICKNESS
DRINK MORE WATER.

ARE YOU GETTING WORRIED?
NUN VALLEY... WHERE IS IT?

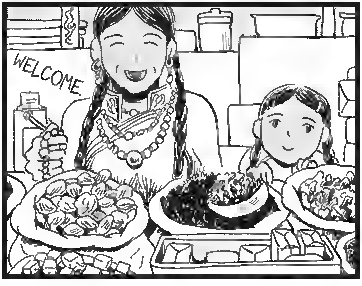
SIGH
TIBETAN MEDICINE INTERESTS ME, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE INGREDIENTS ARE.
WESTERN MEDICINE, PLEASE.

...NO WORRIES. I'M SORRY.
UM.. I'M SORRY FOR MAKING YOU DO AN ODD JOB.
PUTT
PUTT
.....
I'M THE ONLY ONE THAT'S BEEN THERE, SO I SHOULD BE THE GUIDE.
EVEN IF I'M NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THIS...

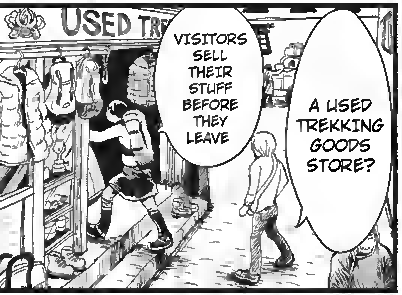
BAM!
DON'T WORRY NOW THAT I'VE ACCEPTED THE JOB, I WILL WORK IN ALL SINCERITY.
IT'S A BIT LATE FOR "DON'T WORRY."
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED THERE, BUT IT SEEMS COMPLI-CATED.
I'M COUNTING ON YOU.
SONAM-SAN IS THE ONLY PERSON I CAN COUNT ON.
THIS WHOLE TRIP IS A PAIN IN THE BUTT ANYWAY.
THIS IS THE MARKET.
NAMGYAL THE KITCHEN BOY WILL ACCOMPANY US
SO LET'S BUY A LOT OF FOOD. WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE?
WHAT'S MY FAVORITE... WHAT DO THEY HAVE?

THEY HAVE EVERYTHING ...
BECAUSE ALL THE ROADS AROUND HERE LEAD TO THIS TOWN, LEHLI.

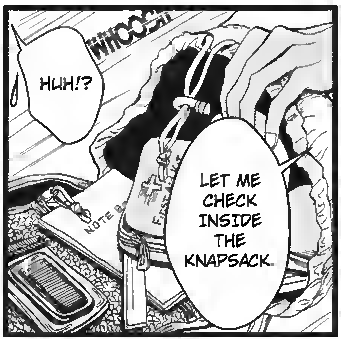
I'LL HAVE 4 HARD TACKS TOO


WELCOME

BUDDHIST ALTAR ARTICLES
CLOTHES
EGGS
WESTERN CONFECT-IONERY
TURNIPS THAT THE VILLAGE GRANDMA GREW
RARE VEGETABLES FROM KASHMIR
INDIAN FRUIT THAT WAS CARRIED THROUGH THE HIMALAYAS.
CANNED GOODS


USED TR
VISITORS SELL THEIR STUFF BEFORE THEY LEAVE
A USED TREKKING GOODS STORE?

NO.
DID YOU BRING A FLASH-LIGHT AND SLEEPING BAG?
LET'S BUY THEM.

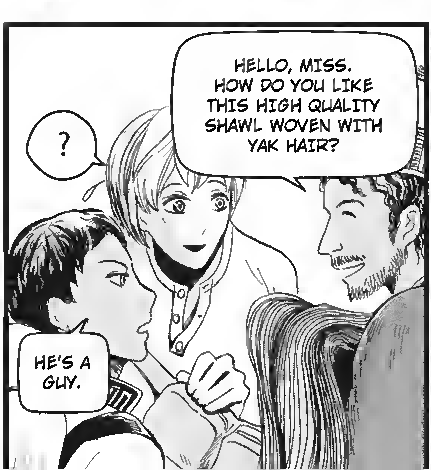

WHOOSH
HUH!?
LET ME CHECK INSIDE THE KNAPSACK.

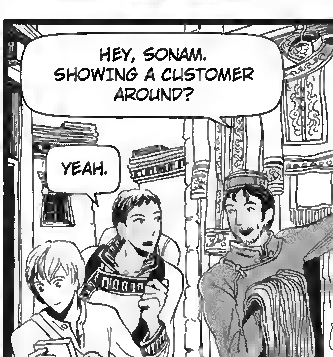
EXCUSE ME.

FLEECE FOR THE COLD...
UNDERWEAR ... ONE EXTRA PAIR IS ENOUGH YOU SHOULD LIGHTEN
WHAT ABOUT MEDICINE ?

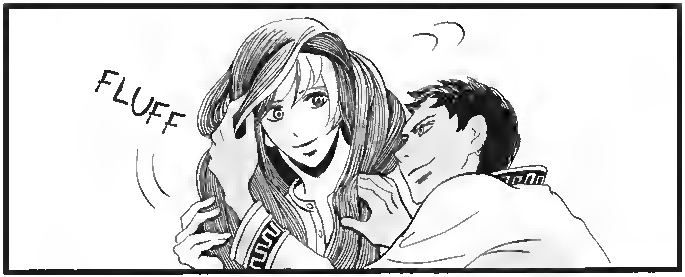
TREKKING SHOES THAT COVER YOUR ANKLE... THAT WOULD WORK

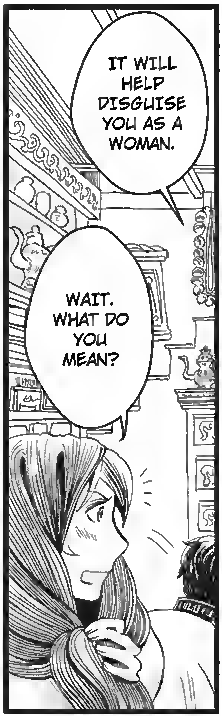
AND YOUR SHOES ?


HELLO, MISS. HOW DO YOU LIKE THIS HIGH QUALITY SHAWL WOVEN WITH YAK HAIR?
?
HE'S A GUY.

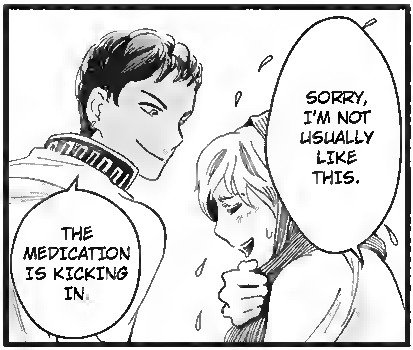

HEY, SONAM. SHOWING A CUSTOMER AROUND?
YEAH.

WE'LL HAVE THIS.
SO SOFT.
HE DOESN'T HAVE A BEARD AND HIS SKIN'S SO WHITE, I THOUGHT HE WAS A WOMAN.
IT CAN ALSO BE USED AS A BLANKET, SO IT'LL COME IN HANDY. I RECOMMEND IT.
YAK HAIR IS LIGHT BUT WARM.
I SEE. IT'S THE SKILLFUL WORK OF THE TIBETANS.


FLUFF

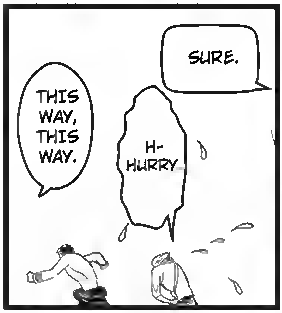

IT WILL HELP DISGUISE YOU AS A WOMAN.
WAIT. WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

IT'S MORE THAN JUST A REMOTE REGION ?!
FLIP
FLIP
WEST TIBET
THEY DON'T GIVE FOREIGNERS PERMITS TO ENTER THE NUN VALLEY AREA
DISGUISE YOURSELF JUST IN CASE, SO THE BORDER PATROL DOESN'T RECOGNIZE YOU.
YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?
NO WONDER I CAN'T FIND IT.
YOUR BIG BROTHER WENT TO ONE HECK OF A PLACE.
YOU WON'T FIND IT IN THERE.
UM...
SONAM-SAN?
I'M SO WORRIED.
IT'S SO REMOTE, EVEN THE BORDER PATROL ARE RARELY THERE EVEN IF THEY ARE, THEY'RE LAZY
HEY, I JUST SCARED YOU SO THAT
LEAVE IT TO ME
BAM BAM

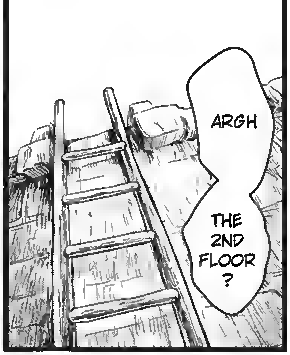

SORRY, I'M NOT USUALLY LIKE THIS.
THE MEDICATION IS KICKING IN.

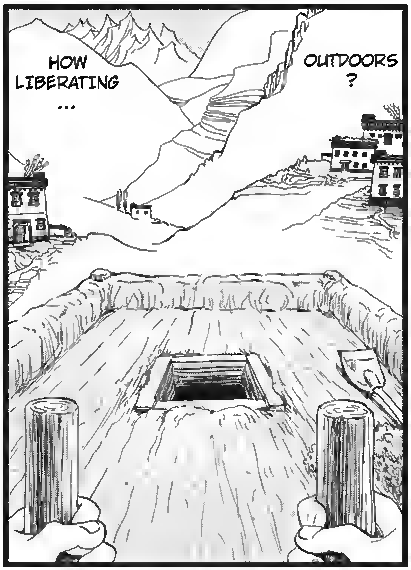
I WANT TO GO TO THE RESTROOM AGAIN.

I-I SEE.
POPS, WE'RE USING YOUR TOILET.


SURE.
THIS WAY, THIS WAY.
H-HURRY

THAT MEDICINE HAS A DIURETIC EFFECT.
IMPROVING YOUR METABOLISM IS GOOD FOR ALTITUDE SICKNESS.
SO DRINK LOTS OF LIQUID AND PEE A LOT.





TO BE CONTINUED...

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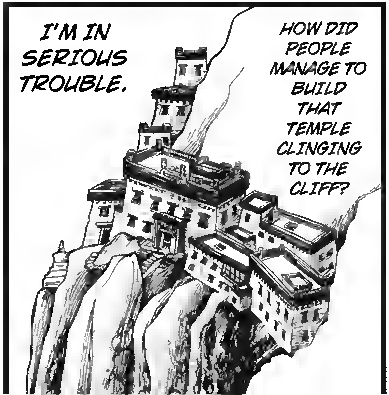
TRANSLATION BY LILY ADACHI
ADAPTATION BY JESSI NUSS (JVTA)
SKY JAPAN, INC.

PANT
POUND
POUND
POUND
POUND
POUND
POUND
PANT
POUND
POUND
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
ROARRRRR
NOBODY TOLD ME IT'D BE LIKE THIS.
GREAT.

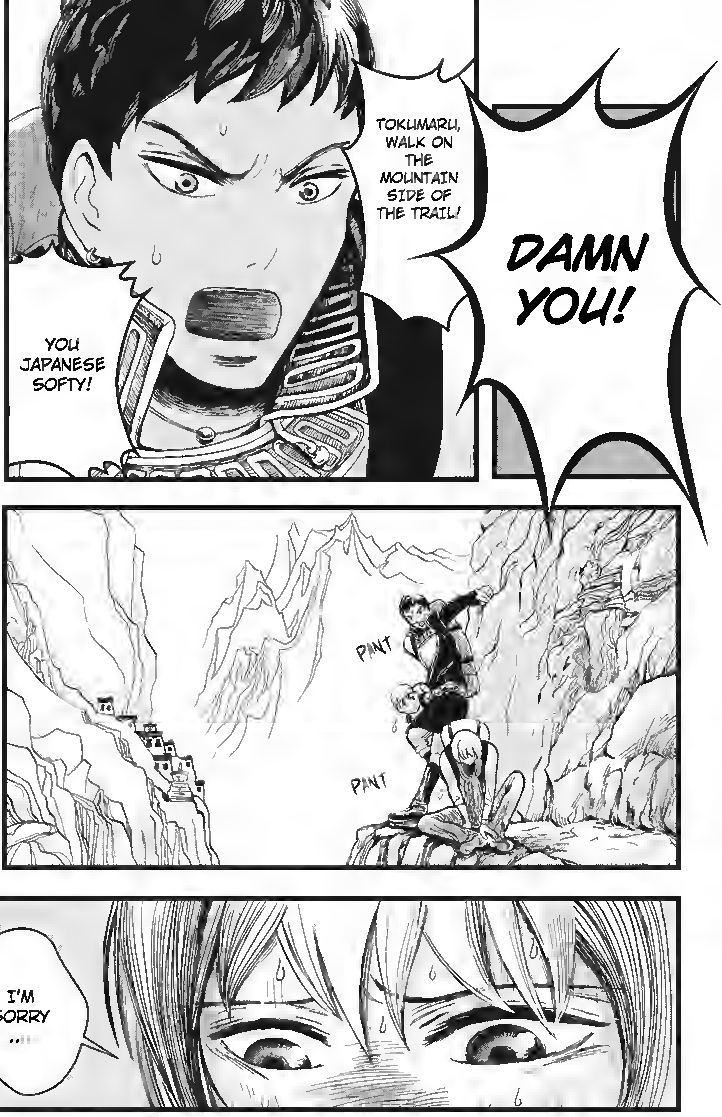


MY ONLY EXPERIENCE IN THE MOUNTAINS WAS WHEN I WENT TO A SKY-GAZING CAMP.

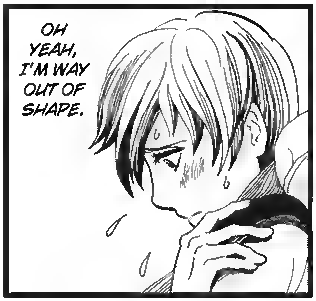
COME TO THINK OF IT, MY BROTHER WAS IN A MOUNTAINEERING CLUB.

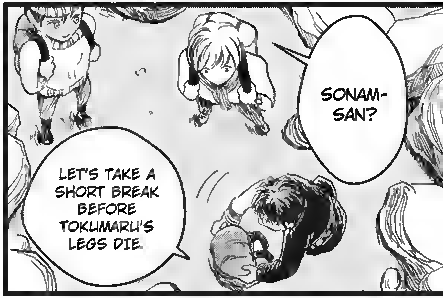
STARTLE
YOU DUMMY!
YOW
RUSTLE
1,500 METERS ?
HOW BIG IS THE DROP FROM HERE TO THE BOTTOM OF THE VALLEY?
WHAT THE...? DON'T YELL AT ME!
TOKUMARU, PAY ATTENTION!
WOBBLE
ROARRRR
IS IT BECAUSE I'M SCARED OR IS THIS ALTITUDE SICKNESS?
IT'S JUST MY HEART BEATING SO FAST

RATTLE
ALIGH!
URK
GRIP
ROARRRRR
RATTLE
CLANK
CLANK

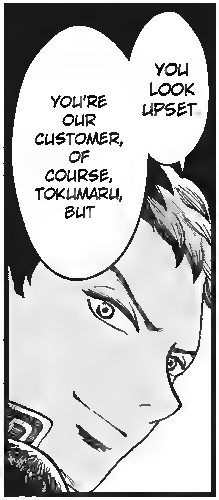

TOKUMARU, WALK ON THE MOUNTAIN SIDE OF THE TRAIL!
DAMN YOU!
YOU JAPANESE SOFTY!
PANT
PANT
I'M SORRY ...

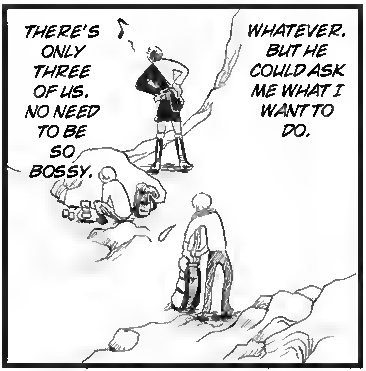
OKAY, NOW.


OH YEAH, I'M WAY OUT OF SHAPE.


SONAM-SAN?
LET'S TAKE A SHORT BREAK BEFORE TOKUMARU'S LEGS DIE.

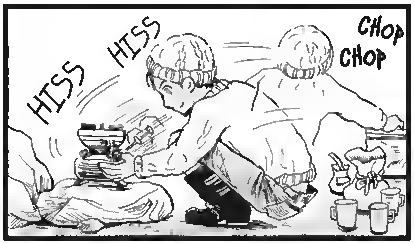
I'M THE LEADER OF THIS PARTY.

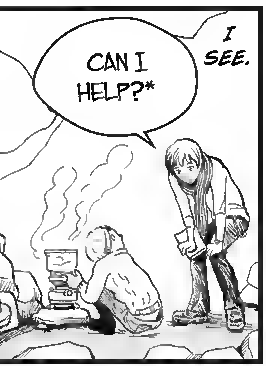

YOU LOOK UPSET.
YOU'RE OUR CUSTOMER, OF COURSE, TOKUMARU, BUT


THERE'S ONLY THREE OF US. NO NEED TO BE SO BOSSY.
WHATEVER. BUT HE COULD ASK ME WHAT I WANT TO DO.

HE'S SO COCKY.

HISS
HISS
BOOSH


HISS
HISS
CHOP
CHOP


CAN I HELP?*
I SEE.

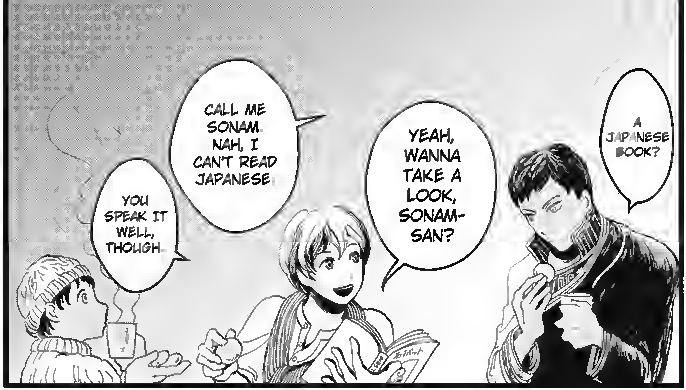
HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND JAPANESE BUT SOME ENGLISH
NO WAY

TOKUMARU, DO YOU SPEAK HINDU OR WESTERN TIBETAN?
UH, NAMGYAL-SAN, LET ME HELP YOU.
?

*ENGLISH

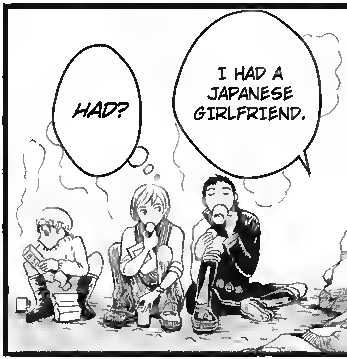
IF I DON'T, I WON'T FIND MY BROTHER.
I KNOW
YOUR JOB IS TO WALK STEADY, RIGHT?
...
THANK YOU, BUT THIS IS MY JOB
YOU MUST BE TIRED GET SOME REST
WOW ....
SPLISH
MAP

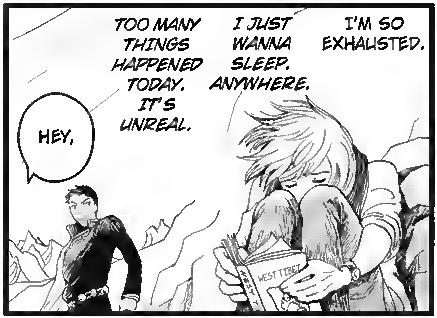
BUTTER TEA: BLACK TEA WITH YAK MILK AND SALT CONSUMED BY PEOPLE IN TIBET AND NEARBY AREAS
IS THIS BUTTER TEA?
HERE YOU ARE.
MAP
WEST TIBET
OH, THANKS.
HUH? NO BUTTER?
NO, IT'S HERB TEA.
MY GUIDEBOOK SAYS PEOPLE HERE DRINK DOZENS OF CUPS OF BUTTER TEA A DAY.
EW, GROSS.
YOU WERE WOBBLING A BIT, SO HE MADE HERB TEA WHICH IS GOOD FOR ALTITUDE SICKNESS.
OH.
THANK YOU.
WEST TIBET
GRIN


A JAPANESE BOOK?
YEAH, WANNA TAKE A LOOK, SONAM-SAN?
CALL ME SONAM. NAH, I CAN'T READ JAPANESE.
YOU SPEAK IT WELL, THOUGH.

CRUNCH CRUNCH

NOT TO BRAG, BUT I CAN SPEAK SEVEN LANGUAGES.


I HAD A JAPANESE GIRLFRIEND.
HAD?


TOO MANY THINGS HAPPENED TODAY. IT'S UNREAL.
I JUST WANNA SLEEP. ANYWHERE.
I'M SO EXHAUSTED.
HEY,

MUNCH MUNCH
I REMEMBER MY BROTHER USED TO SAY THAT PEOPLE'S TRUE COLORS SHOW WHEN THEY'RE IN THE MOUNTAINS.

HOW'S YOUR ALTITUDE SICKNESS?
I'M FINE.
THEN, LET'S PRESS ON THE SKY LOOKS THREATENING
SWISHHHH
FREEZING!
IT'S COMING

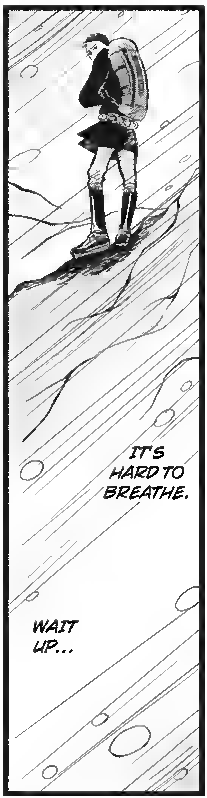
SWISSHHHH

PANT
PANT
WE HAVE TO.
WE'RE GONNA STAY IN THE VILLAGE OVER THE PASS TONIGHT.

SNOW? IT WAS SO HOT JUST A MOMENT AGO.
PANT
PANT

SIGH
PANT
I CAN'T FEEL MY HANDS.
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
SWISSHHHHH
TOMO-NII, YOU WALKED HERE ALONE?
...
...
FLUTTER
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
WHOA!
TOKUMARU.
PANT
PANT
PANT
YOU ALWAYS WERE COOL.

PANT
PANT
YOU'RE LAGGING BEHIND!
STAY CLOSE!
I KNOW.
PANT
PANT
MY LEGS FEEL LIKE LEAD.
PANT
PANT
PANT
I CAN'T SEE MY FEET CLEARLY.
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
BUT MY LEGS AREN'T MOVING.
PANT
I'M COLD.
HHHH


IT'S HARD TO BREATHE.
WAIT UP...

I CAN'T WALK LIKE A TIBETAN.

...DAMN.
PANT
PANT

PANT
I CAN'T WALK ANY FASTER.
MORE NAGGING, ?
PANT
PANT
PANT

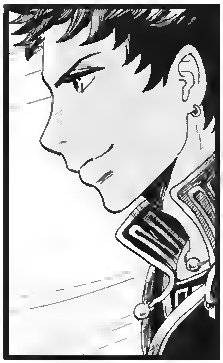
STOMP
STOMP

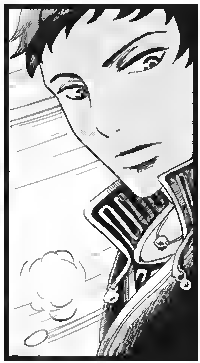
PANT
PANT

GRAB
!
MY KNAPSACK ...
SCRAMBLE

TOKUMARU.
PANT
PANT
IT HAPPENS A LOT. YOU'LL GET USED TO IT.
HWOOOO
SWISSHH
ROAR
WEST TIBET IS SAID TO HAVE FOUR SEASONS IN A DAY.
WE'RE HERE.
ROARRRR
...
PANT
PANT
PANT

ROAR
WHAT? I CAN'T HEAR YOU.
HERE? THE PASS?
I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING.
HWOO

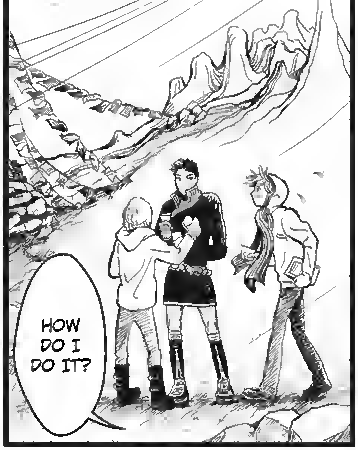




I CAME ALL THIS WAY AND THERE'S NOTHING TO SEE.

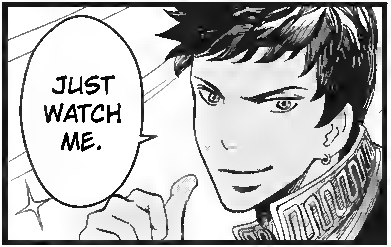
THE AREA BEYOND HERE IS NOT IN ANY GUIDEBOOK.

LUNGTA, A MYTHICAL TIBETAN CREATURE SYMBOLIZING THE INNER AIR OR WIND OF THE BODY AND RELATED ASPECTS OF THE BUDDHIST PATH.


HOW DO I DO IT?

PUT THE BOOK DOWN AND COME
DO IT.
MISTTIER

MAN, THIS IS A BIT EMBARRASSING ..
SO

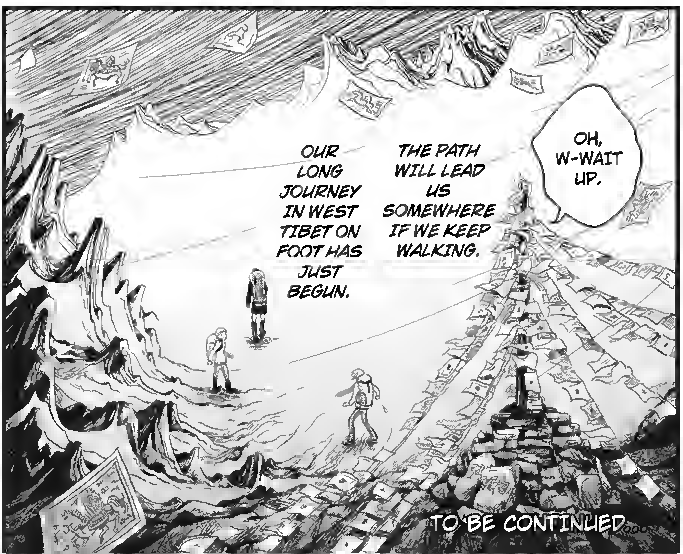

JUST WATCH ME.

SO ...
HERE, IN A LOUD VOICE,
SO

SO
?
SO
KI
SO
SO
SO
SO

LHAGYALLO (VICTORY TO GOD)!

I HOPE I FIND MY BROTHER SAFELY,
AND CAN GO BACK TO JAPAN SOON.
WE'LL WALK TO THAT PASS TOMOR-ROW.
HUH? WHERE?
OVER THERE
WHAT?!
FOR REAL ?
THAT'S LIKE THE END OF THE EARTH!
ALRIGHT, LET'S HURRY TO THE VILLAGE


OH, W-WAIT UP.
THE PATH WILL LEAD US SOMEWHERE IF WE KEEP WALKING.
OUR LONG JOURNEY IN WEST TIBET ON FOOT HAS JUST BEGUN.
TO BE CONTINUED

The WHEEL of LIFE
OFF LIMIT - PART 1
KURANISHI
TRANSLATION BY LILY ADACHI
ADAPTATION BY JESSI NUSS (JVTA)
SKY JAPAN, INC.

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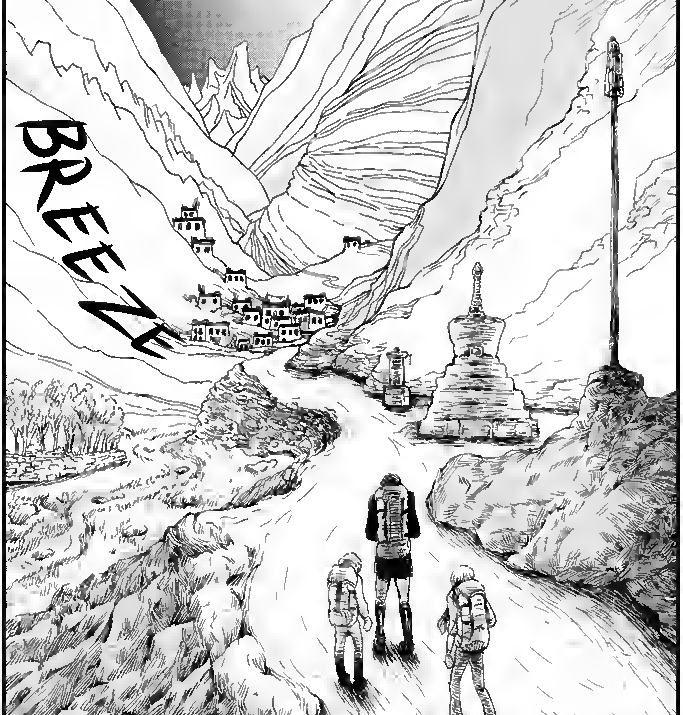
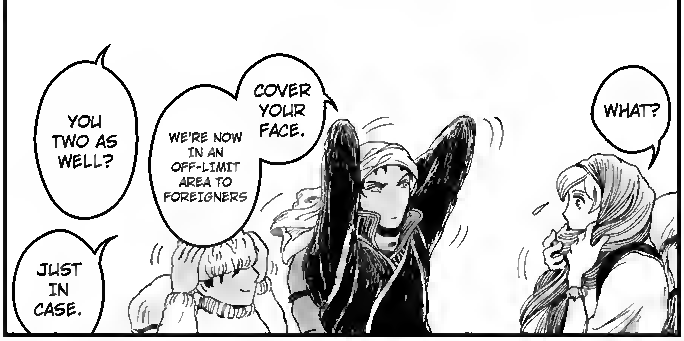
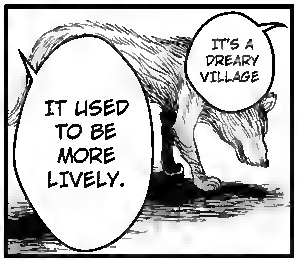
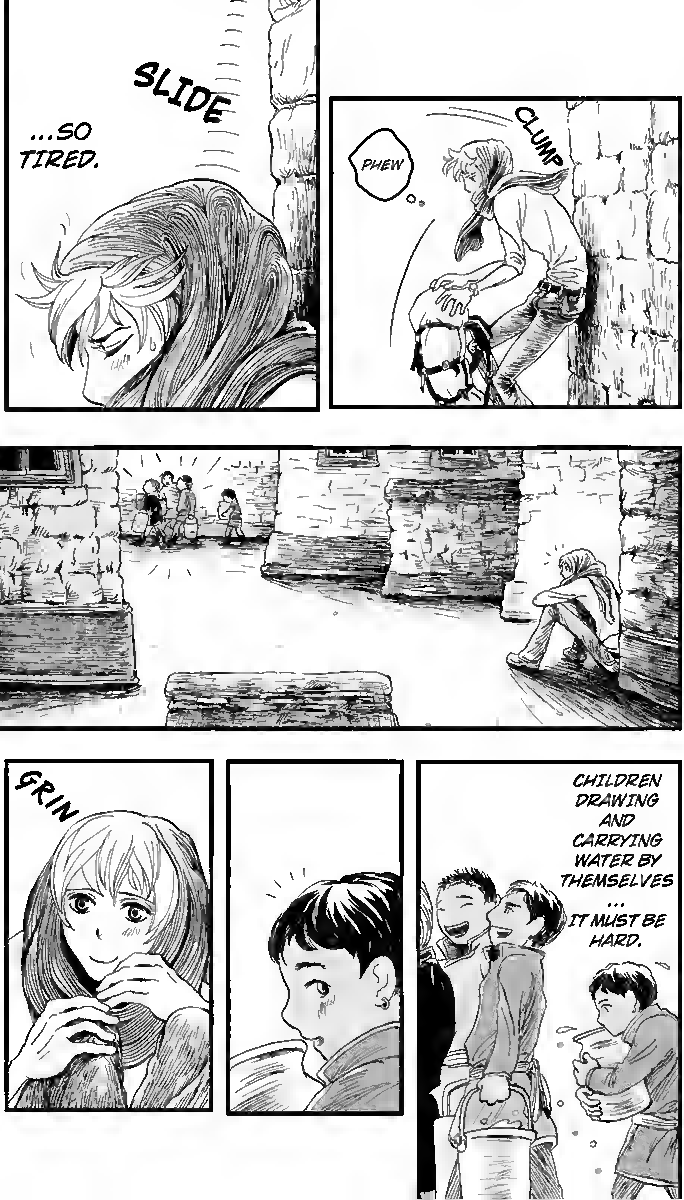


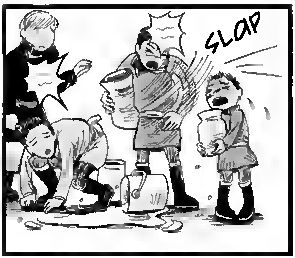
TOKUMARU
SPIN THE PRAYER WHEEL
PRAYER WHEEL?
IT WAS A LONG HIKE. FINALLY, I CAN SLEEP.
PRAYER WHEELS ARE ALSO CALLED MANI WHEELS
SPIN SPIN
TING
LIKE THIS?
HEY, YOU HAVE TO SPIN IT CLOCKWISE.
FLOMP
HUH?
NOW, BEFORE WE ENTER THE VILLAGE
IT CONTAINS SCRIPTURES, AND SPINNING IT ONCE IS SAID TO BRING THE SAME BENEFITS AS RECITING PRAYERS ONCE
TING
YEAH?
SPIN


WHAT?
COVER YOUR FACE.
WE'RE NOW IN AN OFF-LIMIT AREA TO FOREIGNERS
YOU TWO AS WELL?
JUST IN CASE.

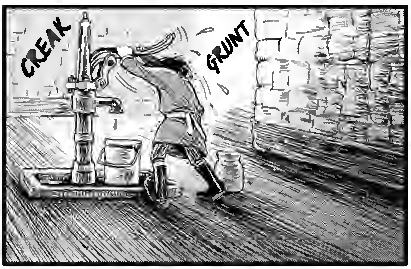
RIGHT, YOU'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE.
STAY HERE AND TRY NOT TO ATTRACT ATTENTION. I'LL LOOK FOR FOOD AND A LODGING.

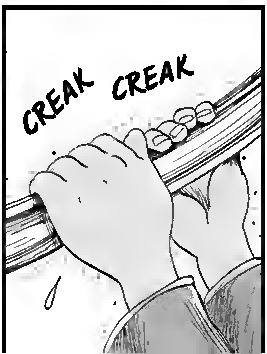

IT'S A DREARY VILLAGE
IT USED TO BE MORE LIVELY.

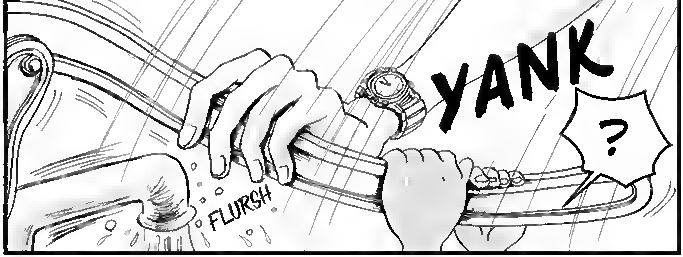

SLIDE
...SO TIRED.
CLUMP
PHEW
CHILDREN DRAWING AND CARRYING WATER BY THEMSELVES ... IT MUST BE HARD.
GRIN

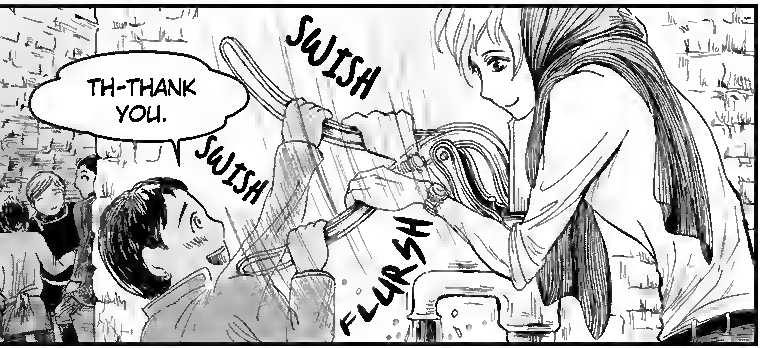

SLAP

!
SPLASH
THUD
TAT

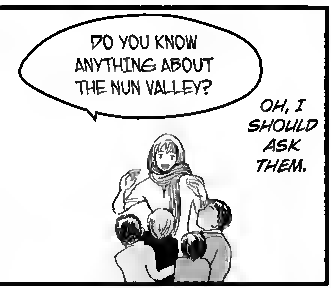

CREAK
GRUNT

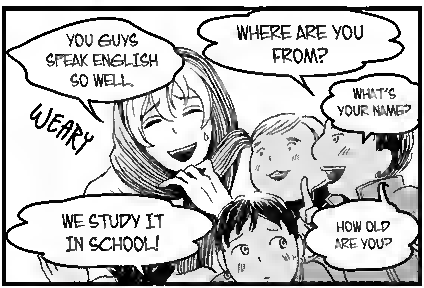

CREAK
CREAK

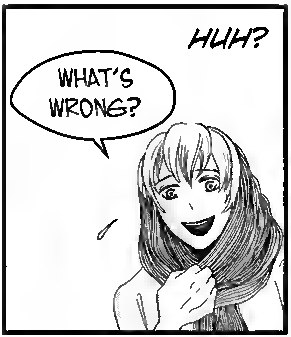

YANK
?
FLURSH

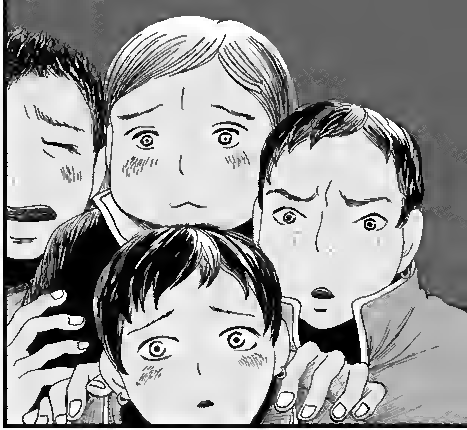

TH-THANK YOU.
SWISH
SWISH
FLURSH

WHOA

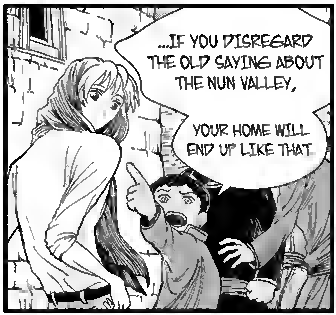

DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE NUN VALLEY?
OH, I SHOULD ASK THEM.


YOU GUYS SPEAK ENGLISH SO WELL.
WHERE ARE YOU FROM?
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
WEARY
WE STUDY IT IN SCHOOL!
HOW OLD ARE YOU?


HUH?
WHAT'S WRONG?

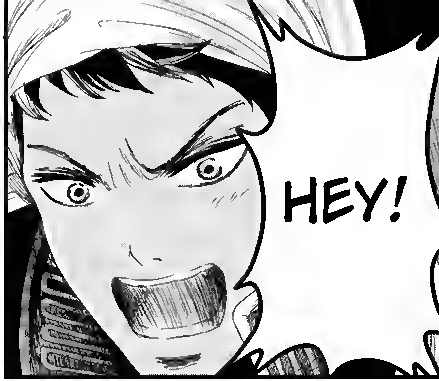


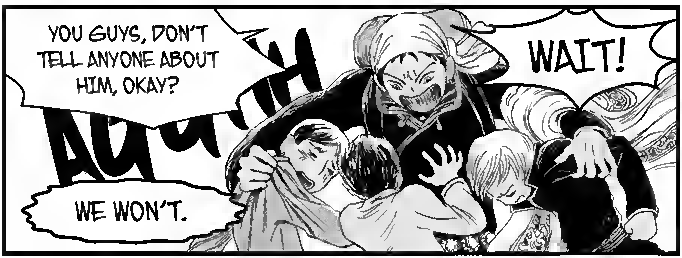
MY DAD SAYS...
HEY, DON'T TALK!
.....
I DON'T KNOW.


...IF YOU DISREGARD THE OLD SAYING ABOUT THE NUN VALLEY,
YOUR HOME WILL END UP LIKE THAT.

WHAT
?

EEK
SONAM?
EEK
RUN


HEY!


YOU GUYS, DON'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT HIM, OKAY?
WAIT!
WE WON'T.

TURN

IT'S A PROMISE BETWEEN MEN.
SURE, WE PROMISE.
I'LL GIVE YOU THESE IN SECRET
GOOD.
THANKS WE'LL KEEP THE SECRET.

FLOMP
YOU MORON, I LOOKED FOR YOU.
GASP
WHAT'S THIS?
TIBETAN CLOTHES. YOUR CLOTHES MAKE YOU STAND OUT.
WE NEVER KNOW WHERE THE MILITARY AND POLICE ARE HIDING.
REALLY ?
IT'S CLOSE TO THE BORDER, BUT IT'S A SMALL AND PEACEFUL VILLAGE.
IS NUN VALLEY A DANGEROUS PLACE?
WHAT ABOUT THE OLD SAYING ?

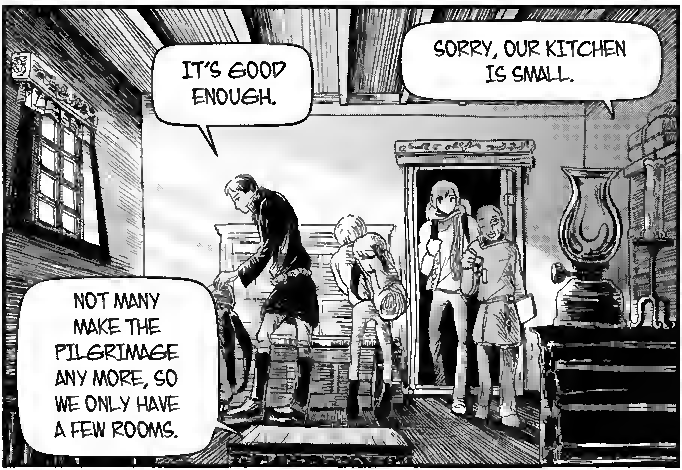
YOU DON'T NEED TO KNOW.
JUST LOOK FOR YOUR BROTHER.

...
THERE'S A LOT THAT YOU'RE BETTER OFF NOT KNOWING.
DON'T EVER FORGET THAT THIS AREA IS OFF LIMIT TO FOREIGNERS.

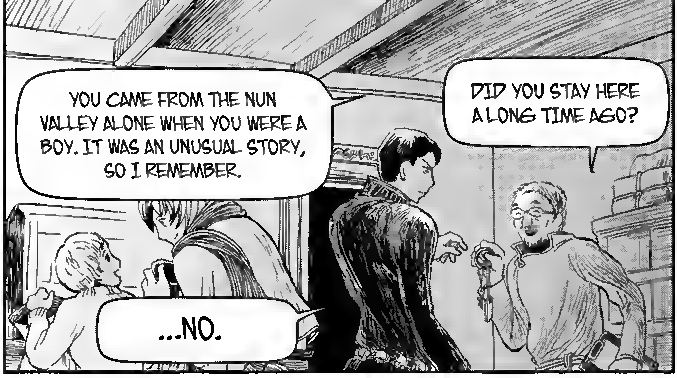
WHAT HAPPENS IF THEY FIND OUT YOU'RE MY GUIDE?
WORST CASE SCENARIO, I'LL LOSE MY LICENSE, BUT I'LL ACT SMART.
NO MATTER HOW RIDICULOUS THE JOB SEEMS, I DO THE BEST I CAN ONCE I'VE ACCEPTED IT.
THERE HE GOES AGAIN...
SO YOU JUST SHUT UP AND FOLLOW ME,
GOT IT?

HE LETS US USE THE KITCHEN TOO.

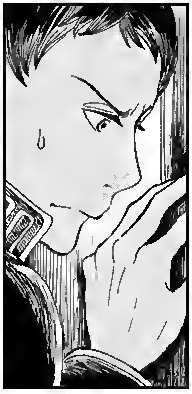
SONAM-SAN, TOKUMARU-SAN.
OVER HERE.


IT'S GOOD ENOUGH.
SORRY, OUR KITCHEN IS SMALL.
NOT MANY MAKE THE PILGRIMAGE ANY MORE, SO WE ONLY HAVE A FEW ROOMS.

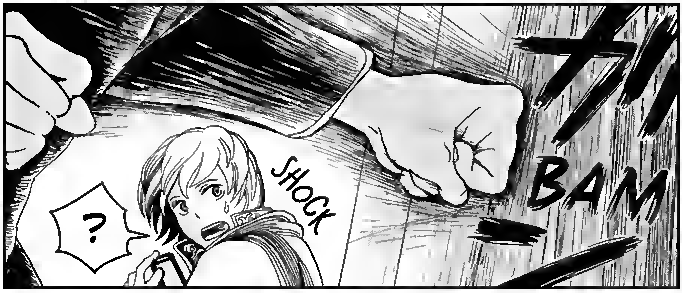
BY ANY CHANCE.

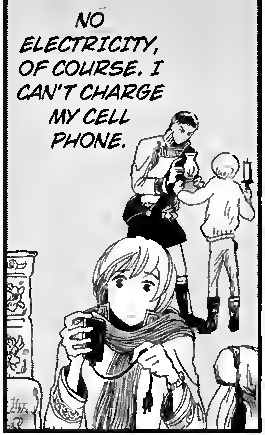

YOU CAME FROM THE NUN VALLEY ALONE WHEN YOU WERE A BOY. IT WAS AN UNUSUAL STORY, SO I REMEMBER.
DID YOU STAY HERE A LONG TIME AGO?
...NO.

...
GRASP



HERE'S YOUR TIP.
THANKS.
PLEASE DON'T TELL ANYONE WE STAYED.
OF COURSE. WE DON'T WANT ANY TROUBLE, EITHER.

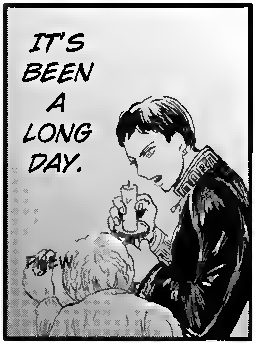

?
SHOCK
BAM

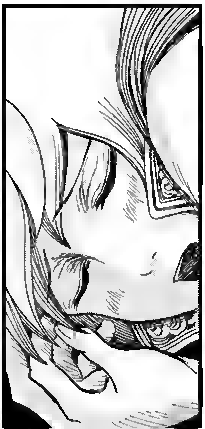

NO ELECTRICITY, OF COURSE. I CAN'T CHARGE MY CELL PHONE.

SIGH
I GUESS NOT.

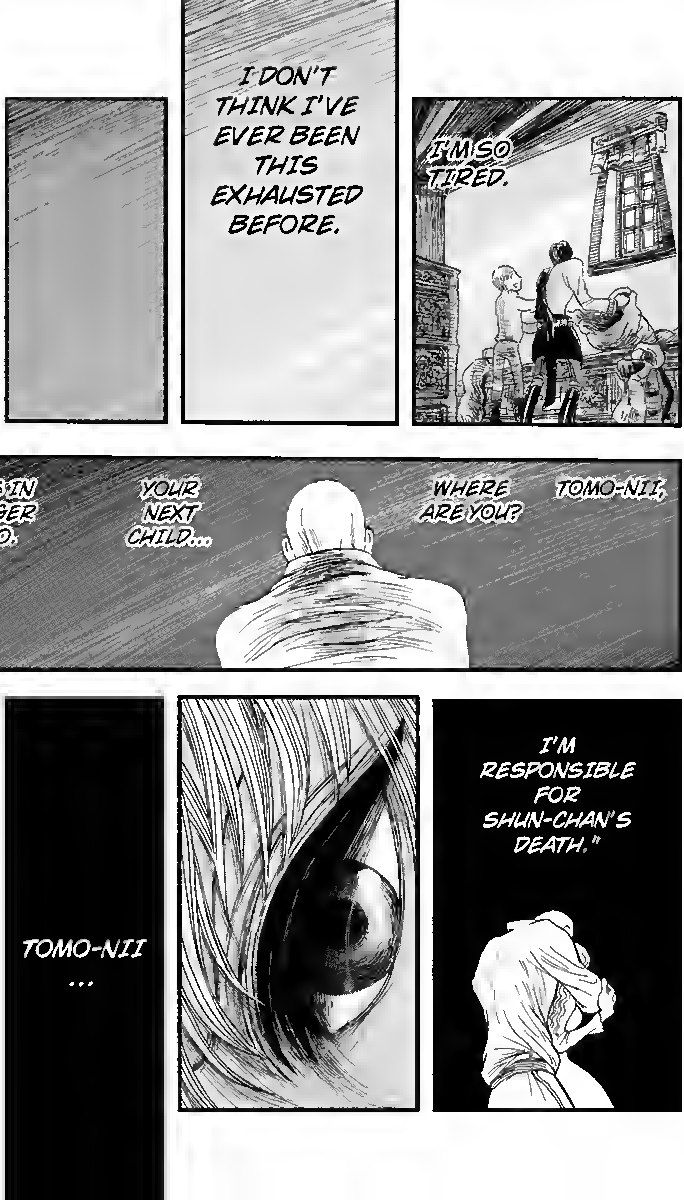
DID I DO SOME-THING AGAIN?

I BROUGHT A SOLAR CHARGER, BUT IT'S ALMOST SUNSET NOW.

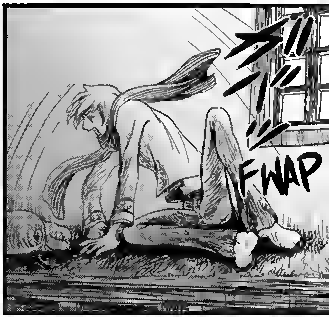

IT'S BEEN A LONG DAY.
PHEW



SIGH.
ROLL OVER


I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER BEEN THIS EXHAUSTED BEFORE.
I'M SO TIRED.
TOMO-NII,
WHERE ARE YOU?
YOUR NEXT CHILD...
...IS IN DANGER TOO.
TOMO-NII ...
I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR SHUN-CHAN'S DEATH."

P,NT
P,NT

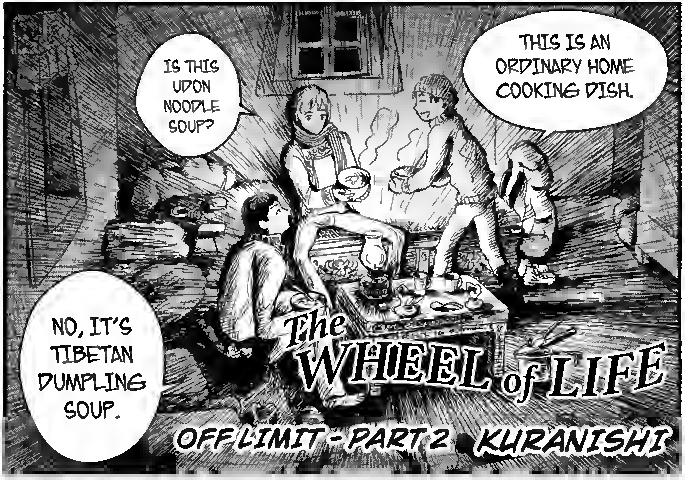

FWAP

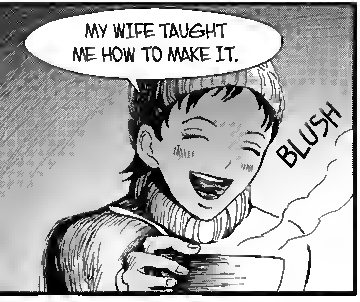
DINNER WILL BE READY SOON.
ALTITUDE SICKNESS ?

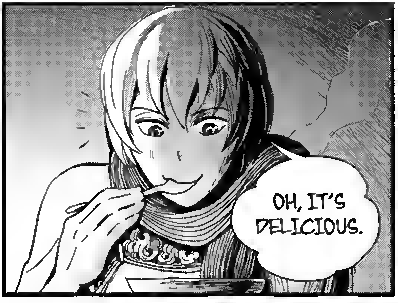
WHAT'S UP?

...AH.
I'M OK.
TO BE CONTINUED.

TRANSLATION BY RICHIKO AOBA
ERIKO TAKEI
ADAPTATION BY JESSI NUSS (JVTA)
SKY JAPAN, INC.

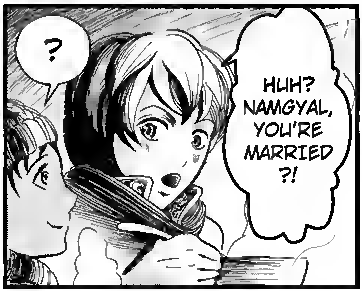

IS THIS UDON NOODLE SOUP?
THIS IS AN ORDINARY HOME COOKING DISH.
NO, IT'S TIBETAN DUMPLING SOUP.
The WHEEL of LIFE
OFF LIMIT - PART 2 KURANISHI

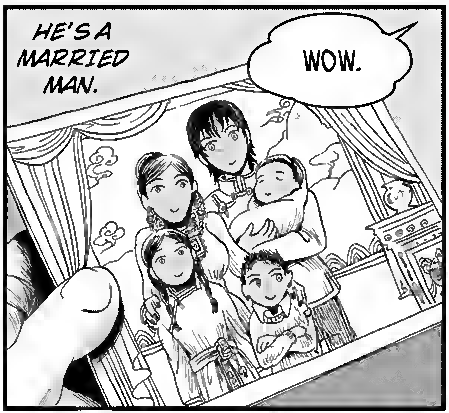


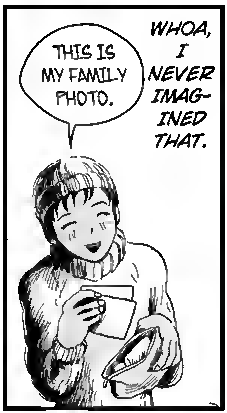


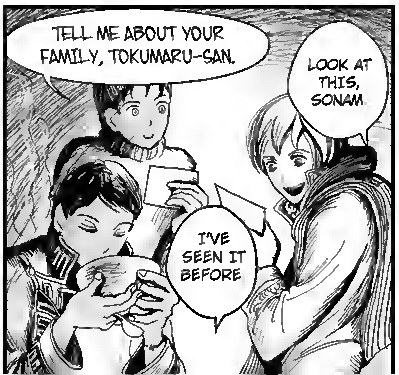
THIS IS A WORK OF FICTION. NAMES, CHARACTERS, PLACES AND INCIDENTS ARE THE PRODUCTS OF THE AUTHOR'S IMAGINATION OR ARE USED FICTITIOUSLY

HE HAS THREE KIDS.
YOU'RE KIDDING!

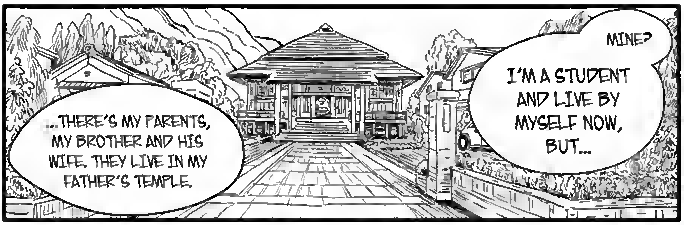

?
HUH? NAMGYAL, YOU'RE MARRIED ?!

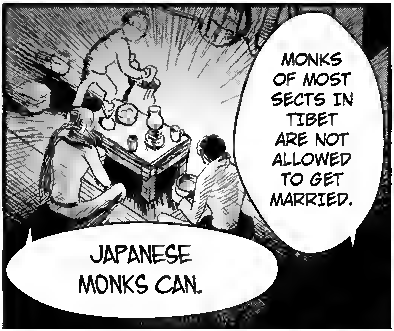

HE'S A MARRIED MAN.
WOW.

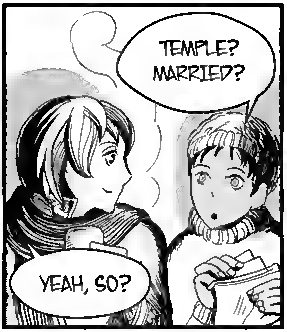

THIS IS MY FAMILY PHOTO.
WHOA, I NEVER IMAGINED THAT.


TELL ME ABOUT YOUR FAMILY, TOKUMARU-SAN.
LOOK AT THIS, SONAM
I'VE SEEN IT BEFORE

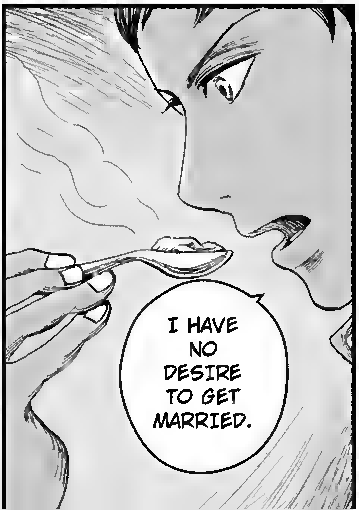
YEAH, HE LOOKS WELL-SETTLED.


...THERE'S MY PARENTS, MY BROTHER AND HIS WIFE. THEY LIVE IN MY FATHER'S TEMPLE.
I'M A STUDENT AND LIVE BY MYSELF NOW, BUT...
MINE?

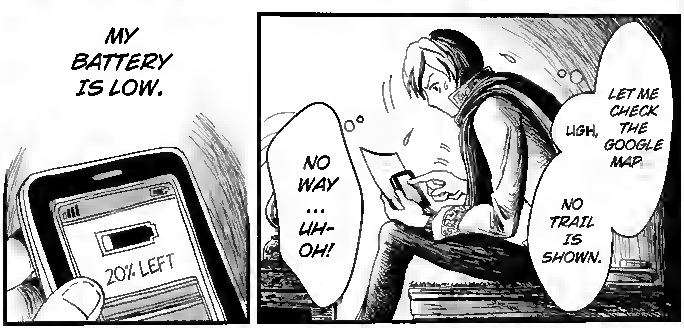

MONKS OF MOST SECTS IN TIBET ARE NOT ALLOWED TO GET MARRIED.
JAPANESE MONKS CAN.


TEMPLE? MARRIED?
YEAH, SO?

I'VE BEEN ALONE ALL MY LIFE, SO I DON'T MIND BEING ALONE IN THE FUTURE.
DON'T BE SO SURE.
HERE, THIS IS TOMO-RROW'S ROUTE.


I HAVE NO DESIRE TO GET MARRIED.

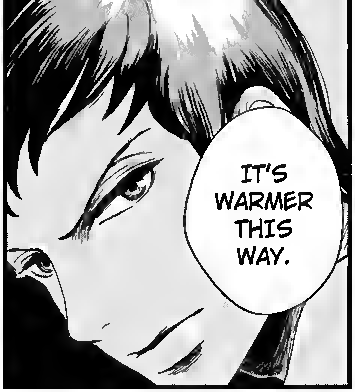
WE'LL GO OVER 4,100-METER-HIGH KITI-LA PASS AND THEN STAY IN THE VILLAGE OF KITI. THE ESTIMATED TRAVELING TIME IS NINE HOURS...
JUST THIS SHEET? DON'T YOU HAVE A MAP?
NO.


MY BATTERY IS LOW.
20% LEFT
NO WAY... UH-OH!
UGH, LET ME CHECK THE GOOGLE MAP.
NO TRAIL IS SHOWN.

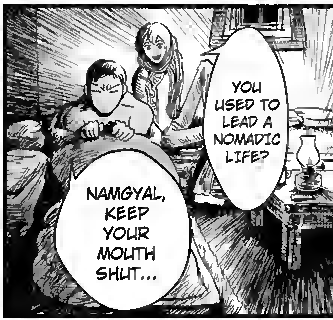
STOP PLAYING AND GO TO SLEEP.
TOMOR-ROW'S ROUTE IS EASIER THAN TODAY'S, BUT IT'S LONGER.
THAT'S COOL!
OH NO, MY BATTERY...
PEEK

...
FLOMP
I'LL GO TO SLEEP NOW.
W-WHY ARE YOU GETTING NAKED?

SONAM-SAN THINKS SO BECAUSE HE'S A NOMAD. I SLEEP WITH MY CLOTHES ON.


IT'S WARMER THIS WAY.

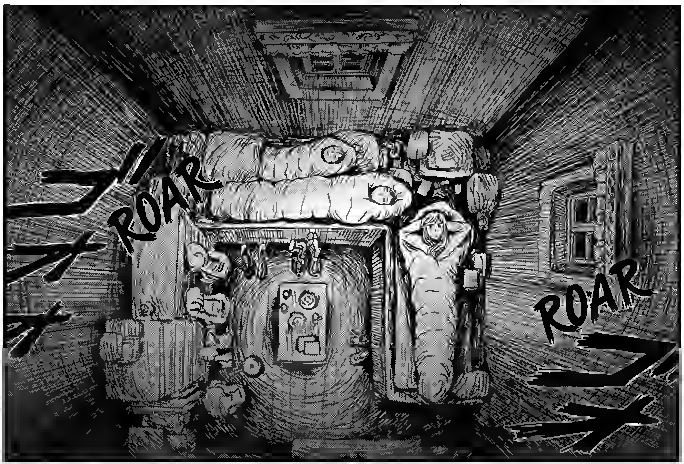
THAT WAS WHEN I WAS LITTLE. I MOVED INTO A MONASTERY WHEN I WAS SEVEN.


YOU USED TO LEAD A NOMADIC LIFE?
NAMGYAL, KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT...

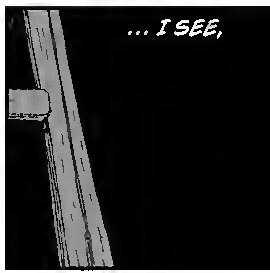
WERE YOU A MONK?
THEN, YOU RETURNED TO SECULAR LIFE?
HE'S NOT CUT OUT FOR IT. WORSE THAN I AM.
... YEAH.

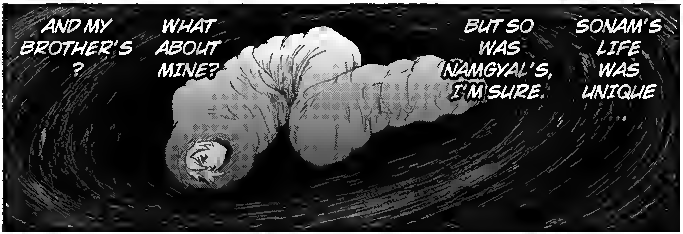
... AFTER THAT, I SOUGHT REFUGE BY MYSELF.
HUH?
FROM WHICH COUNTRY ?
NO QUESTIONS!
GO TO SLEEP ALREADY.
STARTLE

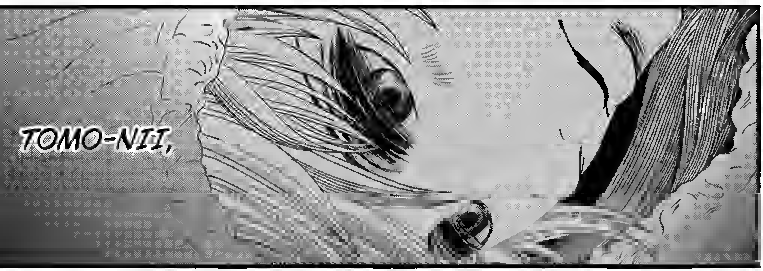
WHAT THE HECK?

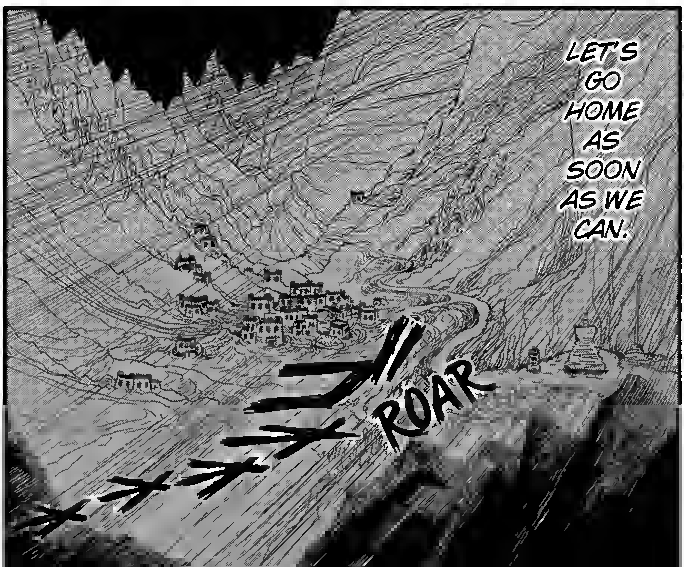

ROAR
ROAR

WE'RE LYING HERE IN THE SAME ROOM RIGHT NOW, BUT OUR LIVES UP UNTIL NOW HAVE BEEN SO DIFFERENT.
THAT'S WHY HE'S ALONE.

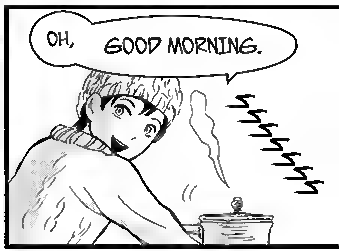

... I SEE,


AND MY BROTHER'S ?
WHAT ABOUT MINE?
BUT SO WAS NAMGYAL'S, I'M SURE.
SONAM'S LIFE WAS UNIQUE ...

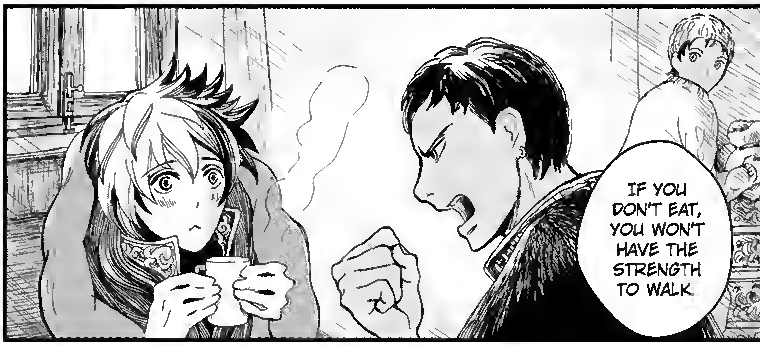

TOMO-NII,

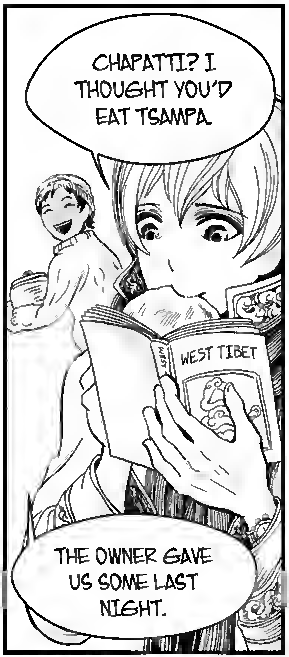

LET'S GO HOME AS SOON AS WE CAN.
ROAR

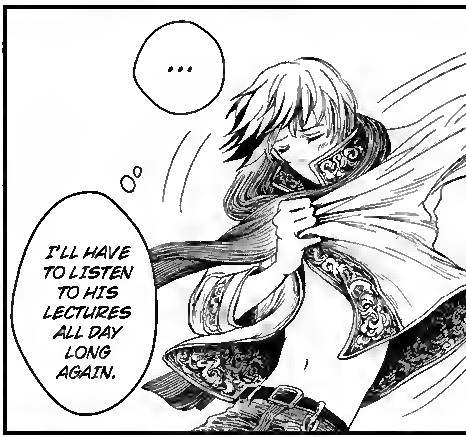
HUH?
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP
CLUCK
WHERE AM I?
COCK-A-DO

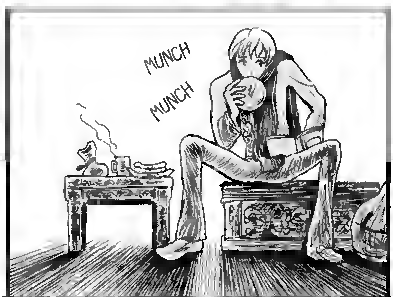

OH, GOOD MORNING.

BREAKFAST IS READY.
MORNING.
HOW MANY PIECES OF CHAPATTI WILL YOU HAVE?
GOOD MORNING.
NOW I REMEMBER. I'M IN WESTERN TIBET!
THIS IS TEA WITH MILK.
PLOP PLOP
YOU MORON.
NONE.
I DON'T EAT BREAKFAST.





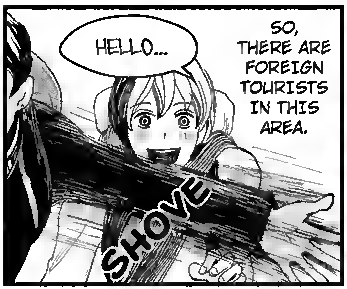




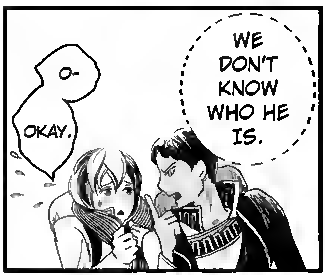
CHAPATTI: AN IN LEAVENED FLATBREAD COMMONLY EATEN IN NEPAL, INDIA, AND PAKISTAN.
TSAMPA: ROASTED BARLEY FLOUR, A TIBETAN AND HIMALAYAN NEPALESE STAPLE.

TOKUMARU
IT SEEMED LIKE HE RECOGNIZED SONAM. DO YOU KNOW HIM?
STAY OUT OF IT.
...
EAT UP, WE HAVE TO LEAVE.

WHOOSH

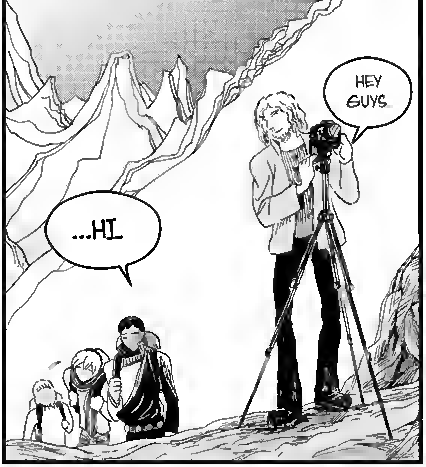

HELLO...
SO, THERE ARE FOREIGN TOURISTS IN THIS AREA.
SHOVE

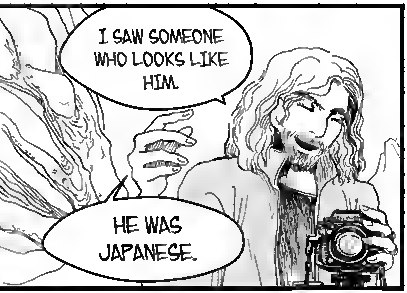
HELLO.

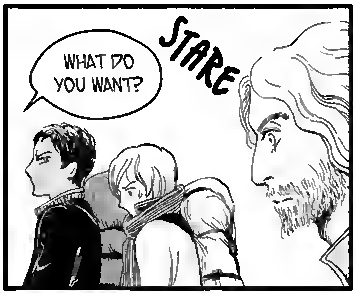

O-
OKAY.
WE DON'T KNOW WHO HE IS.

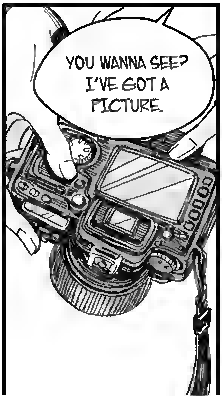
W-WHAT?
DON'T SPEAK.

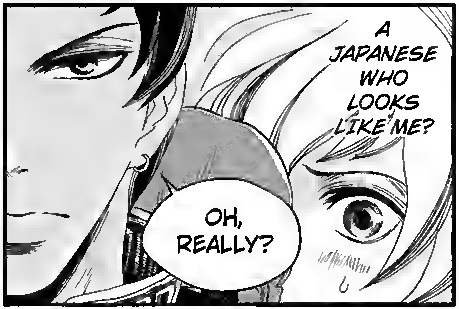
DID YOU COME FROM THE VILLAGE?
YOU GOT ANY CIGARETTES?
NO.


HEY GUYS.
...HI

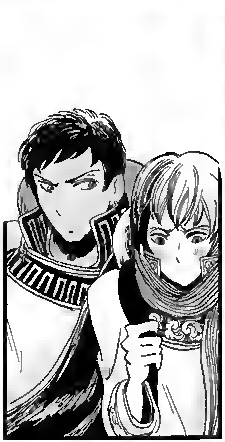

I SAW SOMEONE WHO LOOKS LIKE HIM.
HE WAS JAPANESE.

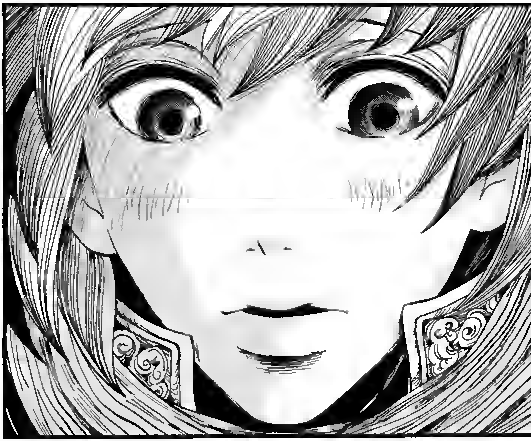

STARE
WHAT DO YOU WANT?

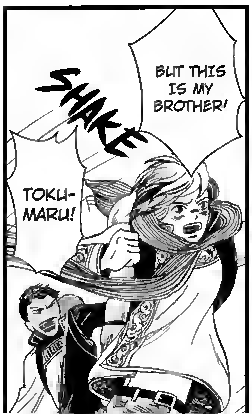

YOU WANNA SEE? I'VE GOT A PICTURE.


A JAPANESE WHO LOOKS LIKE ME?
OH, REALLY?

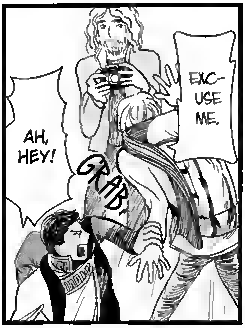
I'M A CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGIST APPROVED BY THE GOVERNMENT, SO I COULD ENTER THIS AREA, BUT IT'S NORMALLY OFF-LIMIT TO FOREIGNERS.

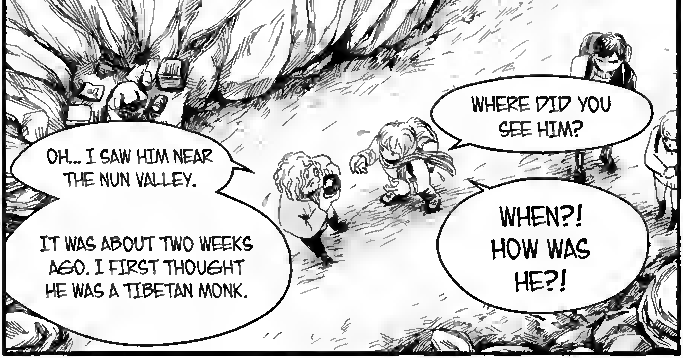


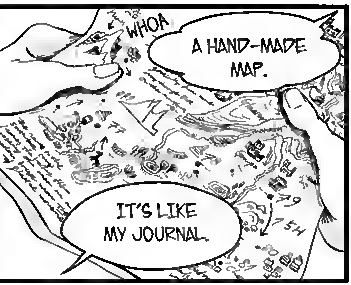


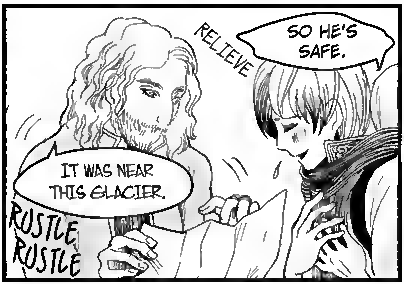

BUT THIS IS MY BROTHER!
SHAKE
TOKU-MARU!

DON'T TALK TO HIM.


EXC-USE ME.
AH, HEY!
GRAB

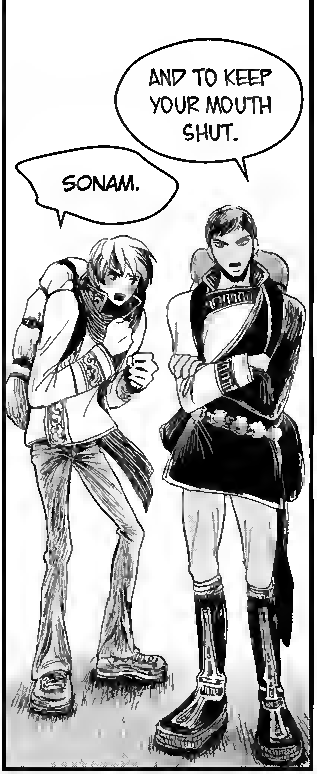

WHERE DID YOU SEE HIM?
OH... I SAW HIM NEAR THE NUN VALLEY.
IT WAS ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO. I FIRST THOUGHT HE WAS A TIBETAN MONK.
WHEN?! HOW WAS HE?!


WHOA
A HAND-MADE MAP.
IT'S LIKE MY JOURNAL.

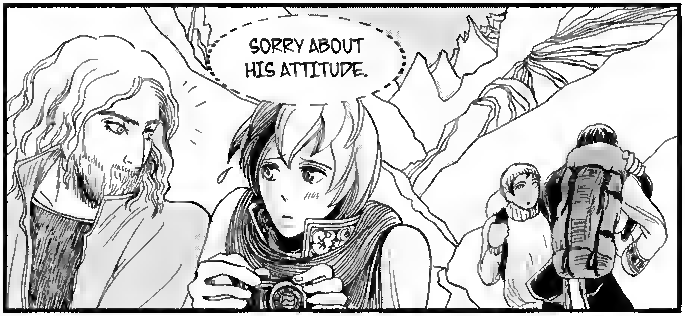

RELIEVE
SO HE'S SAFE.
IT WAS NEAR THIS GLACIER.
RUSTLE RUSTLE

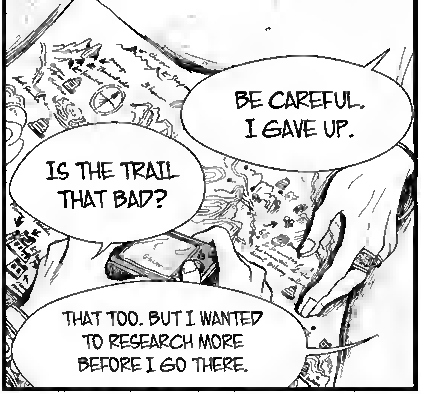
PROFESSOR.
HOW MUCH SHOULD I PAY YOU TO TAKE A PICTURE OF THIS MAP?

WELL.
KEEP YOUR MONEY.
I'LL BE HAPPY IF THIS MAP CAN HELP YOU.

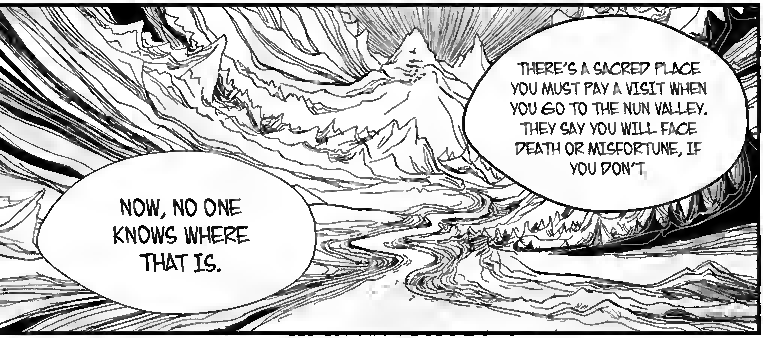

AND TO KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT.
SONAM.

I WON'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT YOU GUYS.
THAT'S VERY THOUGHTFUL OF YOU.


SORRY ABOUT HIS ATTITUDE.

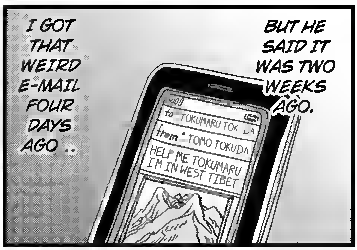

BE CAREFUL. I GAVE UP.
IS THE TRAIL THAT BAD?
THAT TOO. BUT I WANTED TO RESEARCH MORE BEFORE I GO THERE.

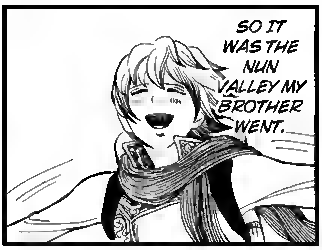
ARE YOU GOING TO THE NUN VALLEY?
I GUESS SO.


THERE'S A SACRED PLACE YOU MUST PAY A VISIT WHEN YOU GO TO THE NUN VALLEY. THEY SAY YOU WILL FACE DEATH OR MISFORTUNE, IF YOU DON'T.
NOW, NO ONE KNOWS WHERE THAT IS.

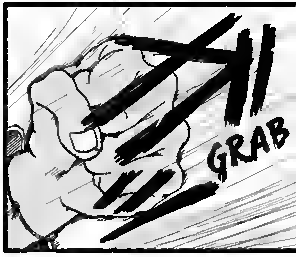
THAT'S WHY THERE AREN'T MANY PILGRIMS ANY MORE.
IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH SOME INCIDENT HAPPENED LONG AGO.

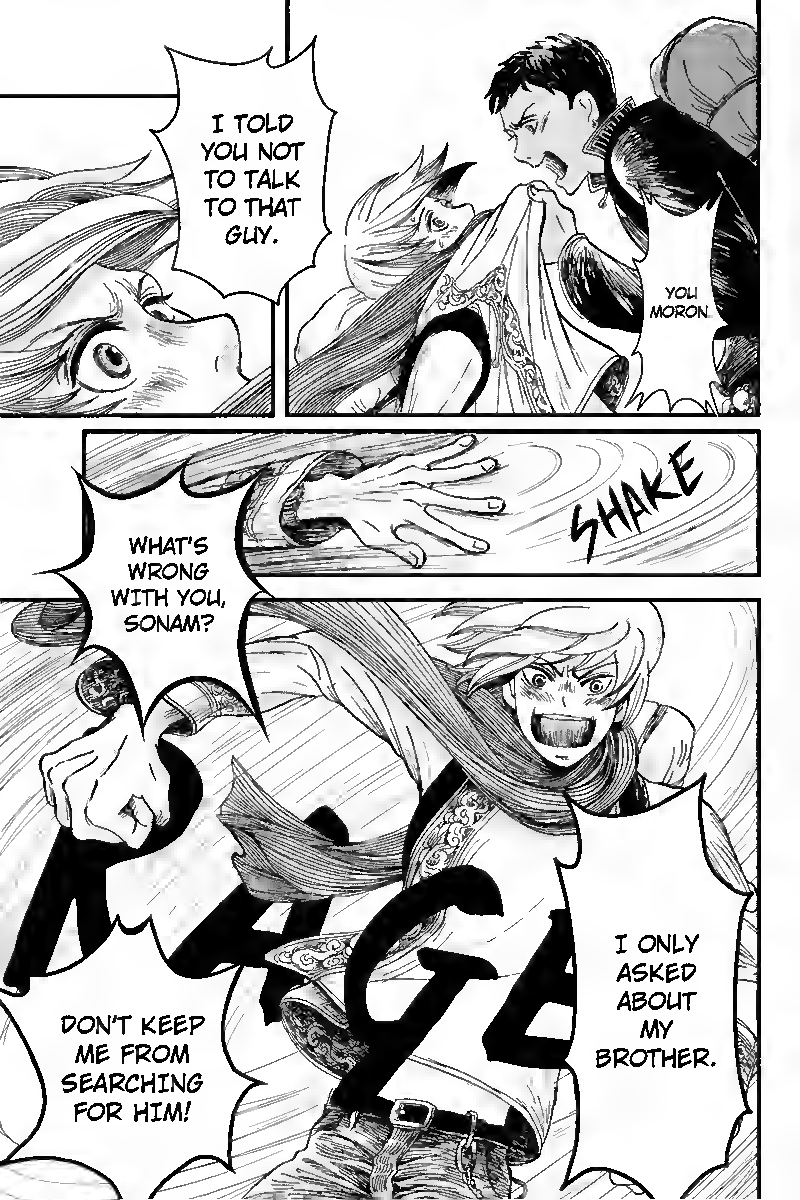
SIGH

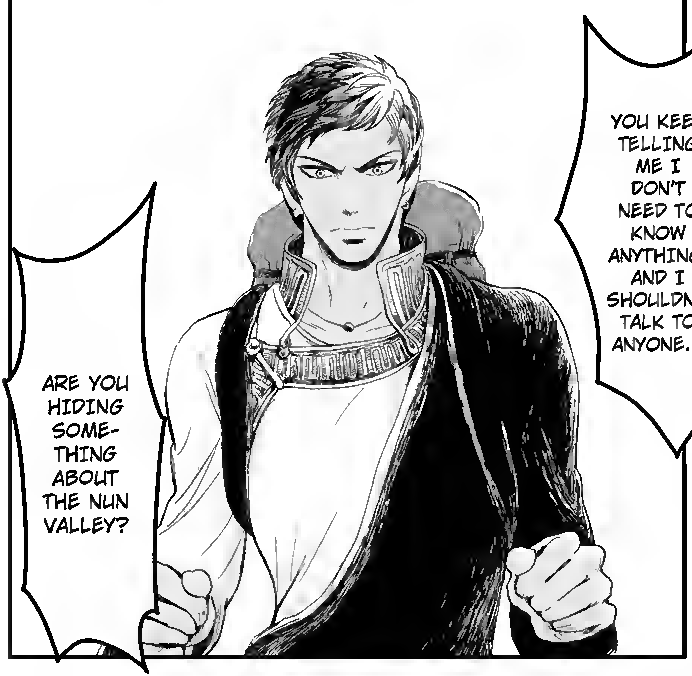

I GOT THAT WEIRD E-MAIL FOUR DAYS AGO..
BUT HE SAID IT WAS TWO WEEKS AGO.
To TOKUMARU TOKUDA
From TOMO TOKUDA
HELP ME TOKUMARU I'M IN WEST TIBET

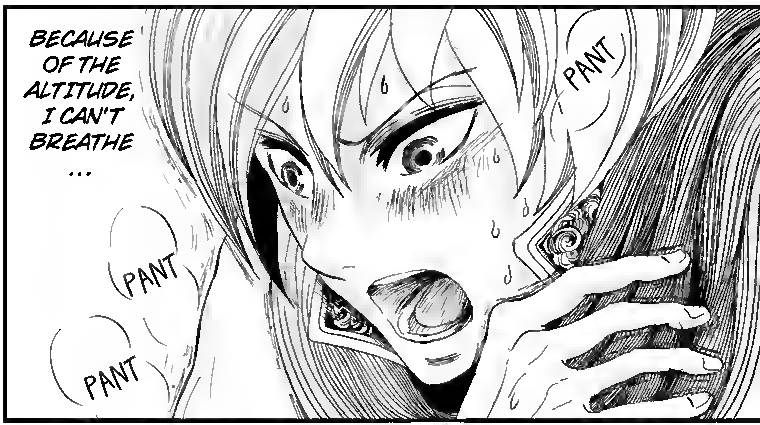

SO IT WAS THE NUN VALLEY MY BROTHER WENT.

WHA-?


GRAB


I TOLD YOU NOT TO TALK TO THAT GUY.
YOU MORON.
SHAKE
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, SONAM?
I ONLY ASKED ABOUT MY BROTHER.
DON'T KEEP ME FROM SEARCHING FOR HIM!


YOU KEEP TELLING ME I DON'T NEED TO KNOW ANYTHING, AND I SHOULDN'T TALK TO ANYONE...
ARE YOU HIDING SOME-THING ABOUT THE NUN VALLEY?

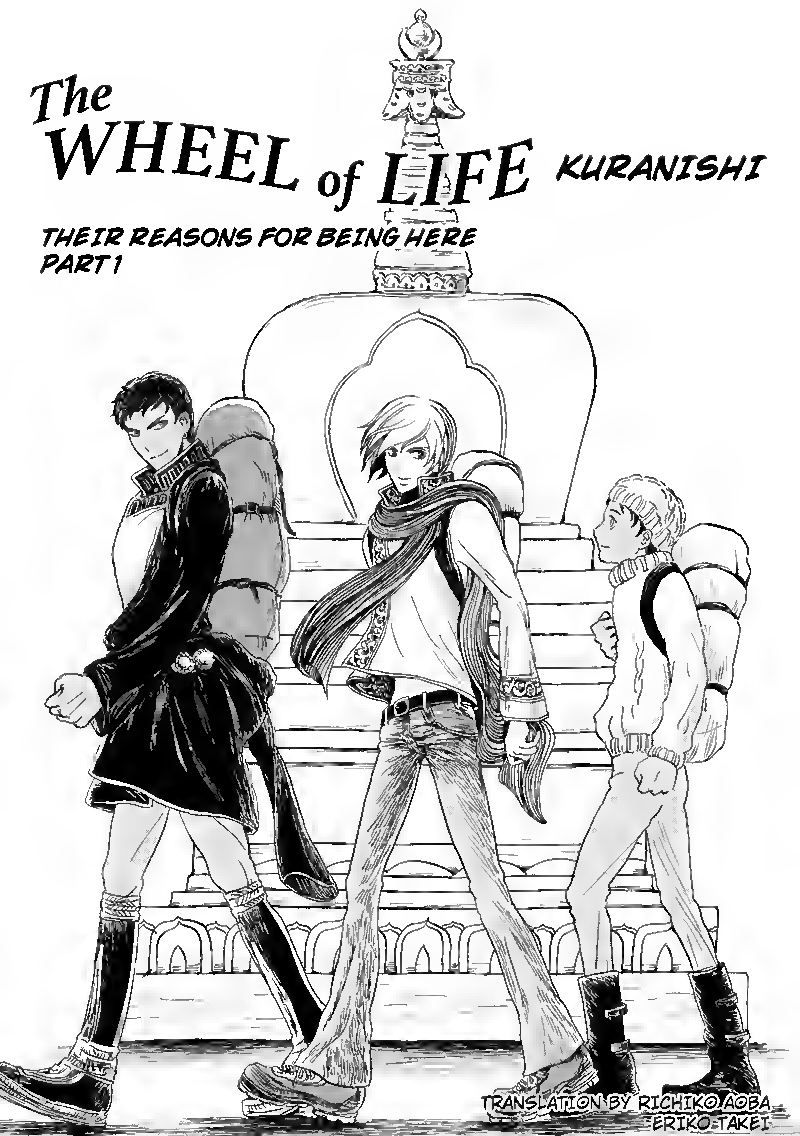


TO BE CONTINUED.

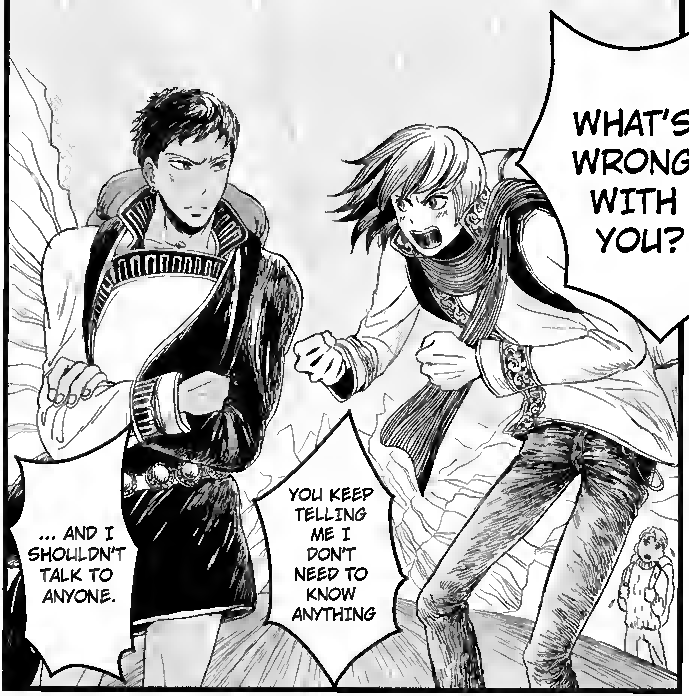
The WHEEL of LIFE

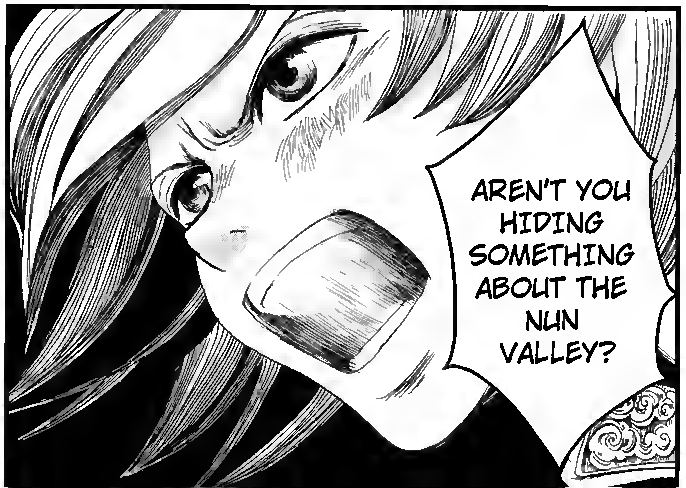
KURANISHI

THEIR REASONS FOR BEING HERE PART 1



TRANSLATION BY RICHIKO AOBA
ERIKO TAKEI
ADAPTATION BY JESSI NUSS (JVTA)
SKY JAPAN, INC.





THIS IS A WORK OF FICTION. NAMES, CHARACTERS, PLACES AND INCIDENTS ARE THE PRODUCTS OF THE AUTHOR'S IMAGINATION OR ARE USED FICTITIOUSLY

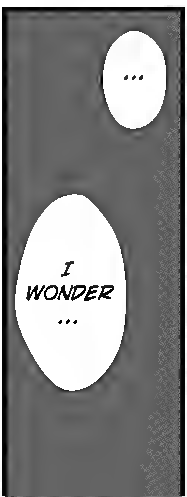
... W-WAIT, BOTH OF YOU.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
SONAM, ANSWER ME.

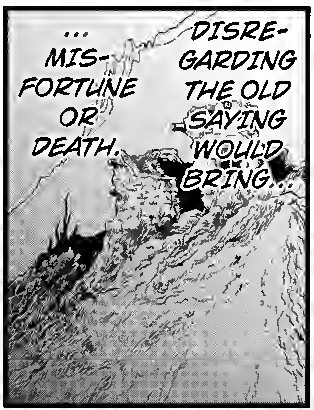
SONA
....
UGH
PANT
OOF
GAG
GAG
PANT
GAG
PANT
WHEEZE
PUFF
GAG
PANT
PUFF
WHEEZE
WHEEZE
COFF
PANT
DAMMIT, DEPRIVED OF OXYGEN...?
WHEEZE
PUFF
WHEEZE
COFF
PANT
PUFF
PUFF
COFF
PUFF

IS THAT ALL YOU WANNA SAY?
IF YOU ASK ANY MORE QUESTIONS,
I'LL GO HOME.
NAMGYAL,
LET'S HAVE TEA. I'LL FETCH WATER.
S-SURE.
NOW, HE'S THREAT-ENING ME.
...
PANT
WHEEZE
PANT
WHEEZE
PANT
WHEEZE
PANT
WHEEZE
PANT
WHEEZE

SIGH
I'LL MAKE TEA FOR YOU NOW. PLEASE TAKE IT EASY.
I'VE NEVER YELLED AT ANYONE EVEN IN JAPAN.
WHAT HAVE I DONE?
WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME I HAD AN EMOTIONAL OUTBURST LIKE THIS?
TEA

...WHY DOES HE KEEP EVERY-THING ABOUT THE NUN VALLEY SO SECRET?


...
I WONDER ...

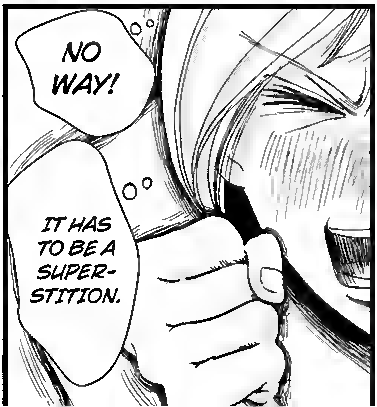

... MIS-FORTUNE OR DEATH.
DISRE-GARDING THE OLD SAYING WOULD BRING..

...AN INCIDENT ...

...IF MY BROTHER IS IN TROUBLE BECAUSE OF SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE OLD SAYING...

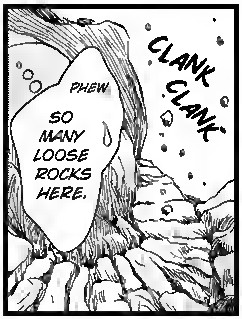
SQUEEZE

TOKU-MARU, WE'RE LEAVING AS SOON AS YOU FINISH YOUR TEA.

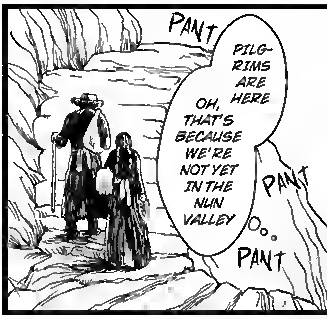

NO WAY!
IT HAS TO BE A SUPER-STITION.

SOMETHING REMINDED ME OF A TEMPLE NEAR HERE
LET'S CHANGE OUR PLAN AND STAY THERE TONIGHT.
IT'S COMFIER THAN CAMPING OUT OVERNIGHT, HUH?
HE MUST HAVE LOOKED AT THE PHOTO OF THE MAP IN MY CAMERA,
WITHOUT ASKING ME

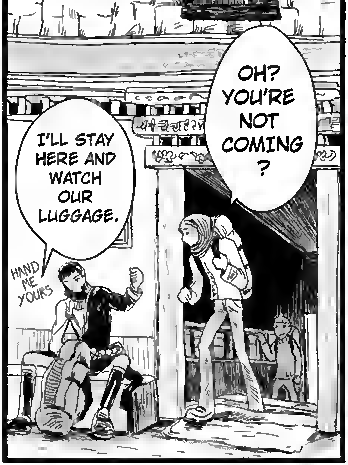
THOSE STONE STEPS ARE RIDIC-ULOUS
PANT
DID HE SAY COMF-IER?
PANT.
PANT


PHEW.
SO MANY LOOSE ROCKS HERE.
CLANK CLANK

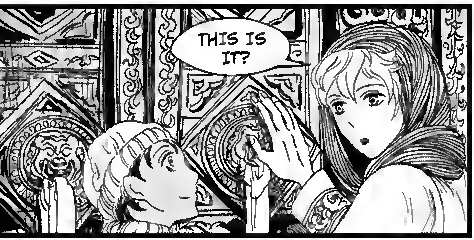
CLANK
AWK

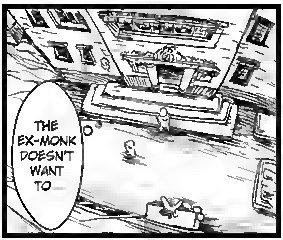

PANT
PILG-RIMS ARE HERE.
OH, THAT'S BECAUSE WE'RE NOT YET IN THE NUN VALLEY
PANT
PANT

WHOA
FINALLY!
FLUTTER
FLUTTER


OH? YOU'RE NOT COMING?
I'LL STAY HERE AND WATCH OUR LUGGAGE.
HAND ME YOURS

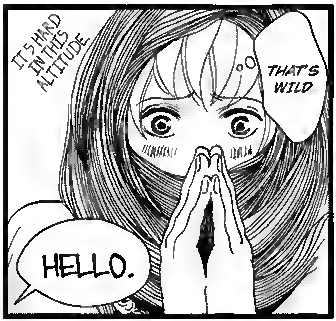
THE MAIN TEMPLE IS DOWN AHEAD.
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK

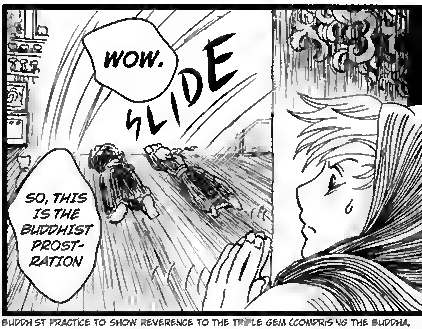

THIS IS IT?


THE EX-MONK DOESN'T WANT TO...

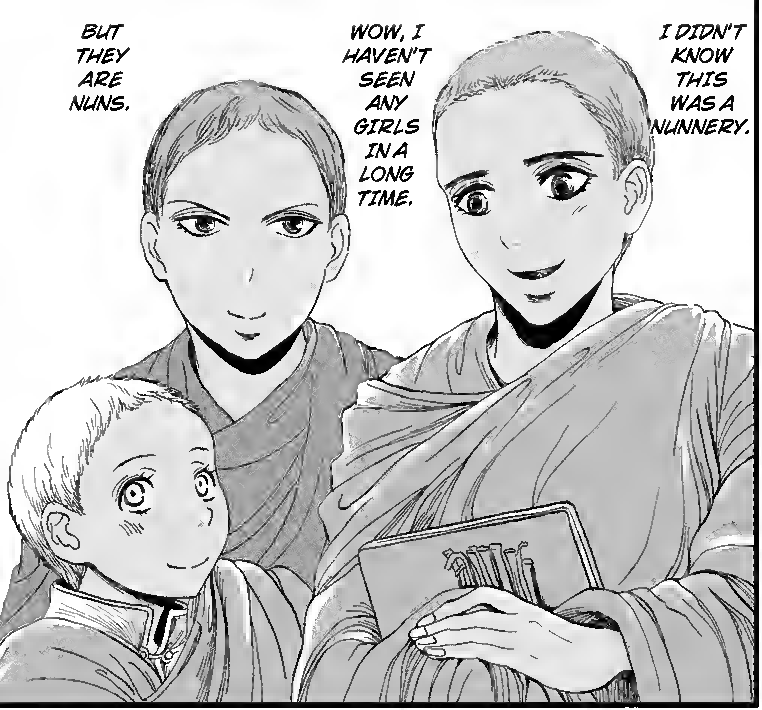
CREAK

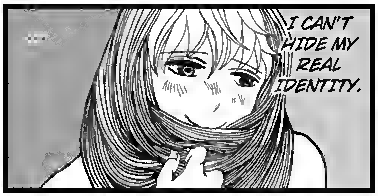
WOW,
IT'S FADING BUT SUPER COLORFUL!
IN COMPLETE CONTRAST TO THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN OUTSIDE.
HI,
EXCUSE US.
...HMM?





BUDDHIST PRACTICE TO SHOW REVERENCE TO THE TRIPLE GEM (COMPRISING THE BUDDHA, HIS TEACHINGS AND THE SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY) AND OTHER OBJECTS OF VENERATION


I DIDN'T KNOW THIS WAS A NUNNERY.
WOW, I HAVEN'T SEEN ANY GIRLS IN A LONG TIME.
BUT THEY ARE NUNS.

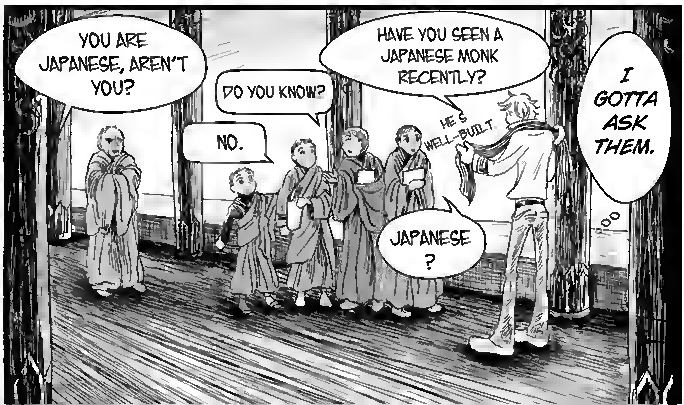

I CAN'T HIDE MY REAL IDENTITY.

CAN YOU TELL?
HEHE.

EXCUSE ME,
YOU...

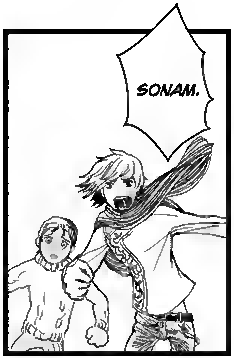
YOU ARE IN THE TEMPLE.
TAKE OFF YOUR SCARF.
OH, SORRY.

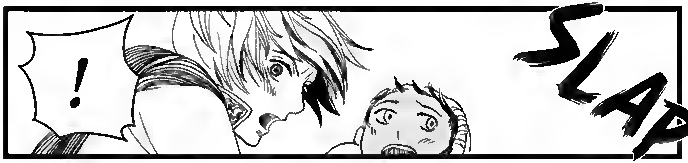
HIS FACIAL HAIR IS SPARSE
HE'S A MAN.
A MAN?
HE'S SO PALE.


YOU ARE JAPANESE, AREN'T YOU?
DO YOU KNOW?
NO.
HAVE YOU SEEN A JAPANESE MONK RECENTLY?
HE'S WELL-BUILT
JAPANESE?
I GOTTA ASK THEM.

I CAN EXPLAIN...
I PERSONALLY THINK IT'S RIDICULOUS, BUT A RULE IS A RULE.
YOU KNOW THIS AREA IS OFF-LIMIT TO FOREIGNERS.
AH...
TOKUMARU -SAN, TOKUMARU -SAN.
NO, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.
I DON'T APPRECIATE YOU BREAKING THE RULE FOR SOME HEROIC ACT.
HUH?
SOMEONE'S PICKING A FIGHT WITH SONAM-SAN.

HE'S GONE.
WHERE IS HE?

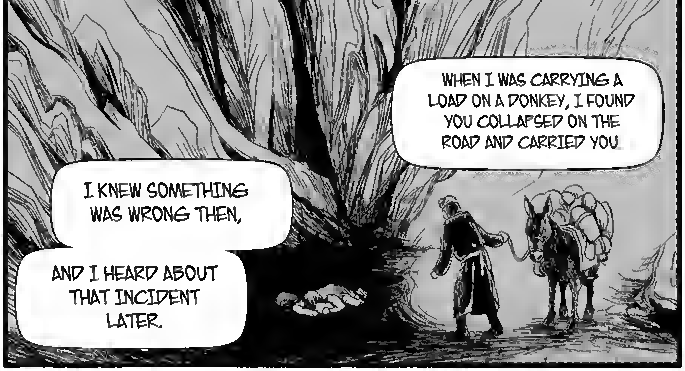

SONAM.


!
SLAP

YOU MIGHT'VE FORGOTTEN ME, BUT I REMEMBER YOU.

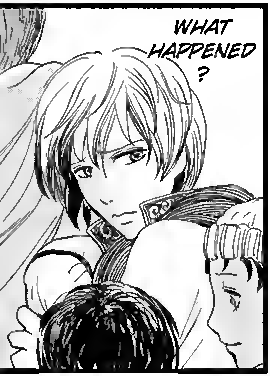
ANSWER ME.

SONAM?


WHEN I WAS CARRYING A LOAD ON A DONKEY, I FOUND YOU COLLAPSED ON THE ROAD AND CARRIED YOU.
I KNEW SOMETHING WAS WRONG THEN,
AND I HEARD ABOUT THAT INCIDENT LATER.

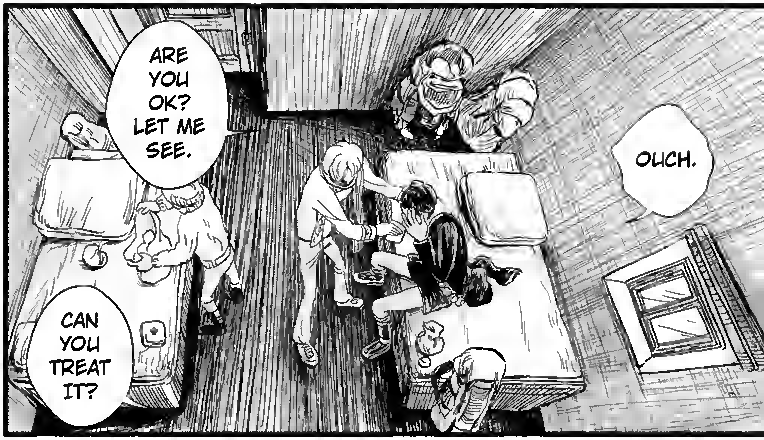
PLEASE LEAVE NOW.
YOU MUST NOT USE VIOLENCE IN ANY CIRCUMSTANCE.

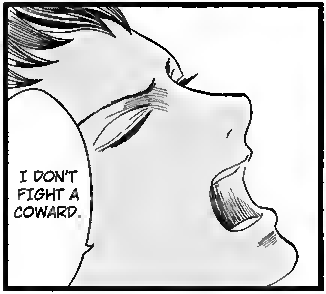
EASY THERE.
HE'S ALWAYS DRUNK.
YOU DID THAT, RIGHT?


WHAT HAPPENED?

FOLLOW ME.
I'LL TAKE YOU TO THE GUESTHOUSE.

MOTHER SUPERIOR
BUT HE'S...
YOU ARE IN A NUNNERY.

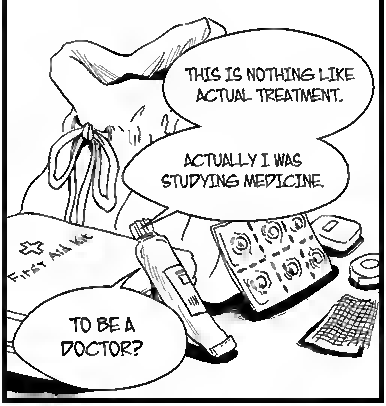

ARE YOU OK? LET ME SEE.
OUCH.
CAN YOU TREAT IT?


I DON'T FIGHT A COWARD.

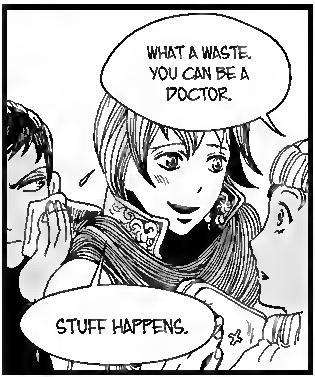
YEAH, OPEN YOUR MOUTH.
YOU DIDN'T PUNCH HIM BACK.

I TOLD YOU NOT TO ASK ABOUT THE NUN VALLEY.
YOU JUST NEED TO ICE IT.
WHO WAS THAT GUY?

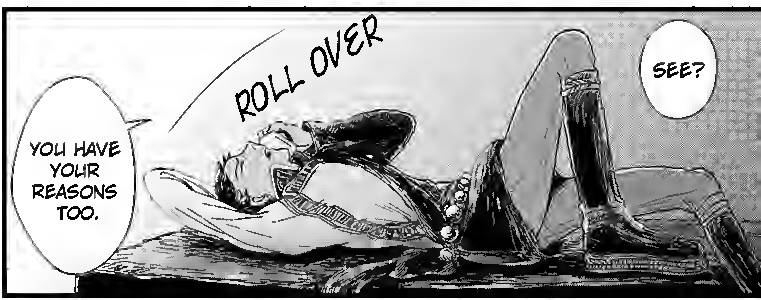
WAS IT ABOUT THE NUN VALLEY AGAIN?
SONAM
SNIF
...
...
OH.


THIS IS NOTHING LIKE ACTUAL TREATMENT.
ACTUALLY I WAS STUDYING MEDICINE.
TO BE A DOCTOR?

TOKUMARU-SAN, YOU SEEM TO KNOW HOW TO TREAT INJURIES.


WHAT A WASTE. YOU CAN BE A DOCTOR.
STUFF HAPPENS.

A WIMP LIKE YOU CAN BE A DOCTOR?
YEAH, SORT OF..
REALLY?
BUT I'M ON LEAVE FROM SCHOOL.


ROLL OVER
SEE?
YOU HAVE YOUR REASONS TOO.

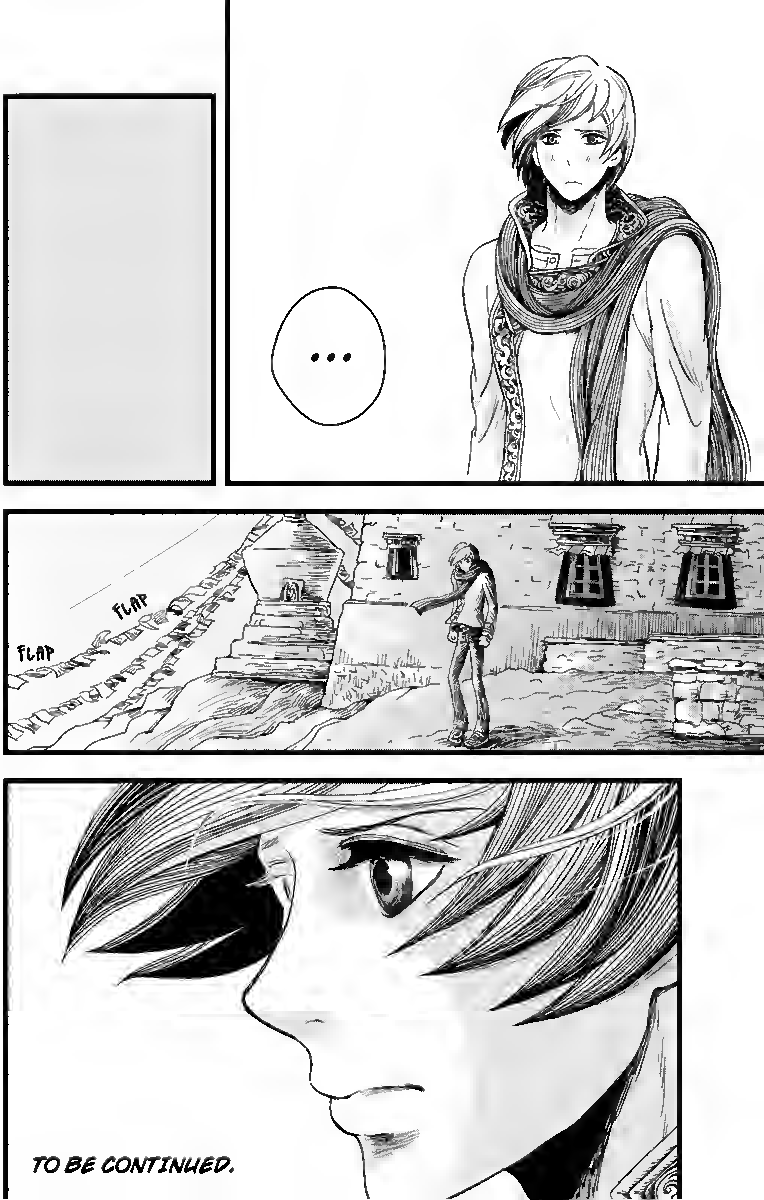
LIKE YOU AND THE NUN VALLEY?
STOP IT ALREADY.
TO BE HONEST, I'M ANXIOUS.

I WANNA KNOW.

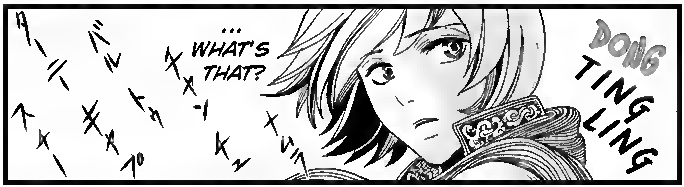
MY BROTHER MIGHT BE INVOLVED IN THAT INCIDENT.
BUT I FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE NOT KNOWING ANYTHING.
I COULDN'T HAVE MADE IT HERE ALONE.
THE BEST I CAN DO IS KEEP UP WITH YOU GUYS.

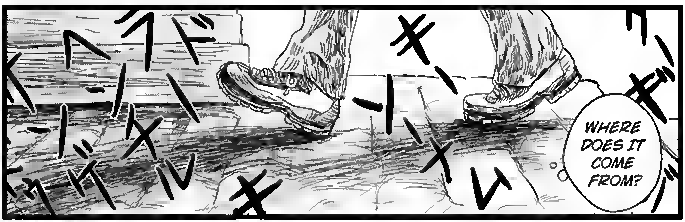
...

SOME THINGS ARE BETTER LEFT ALONE.
SONAM
YOUR BOTHER HAS NOTHING TO DO...
...WITH THE INCIDENT.


...
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
TO BE CONTINUED.

THE WRITING REPRESENTS READING OF SUTRAS, MAINLY THE HEART SUTRA, WHICH IS ABOUT THE WISDOM TO LIVE WITHOUT SUFFERING





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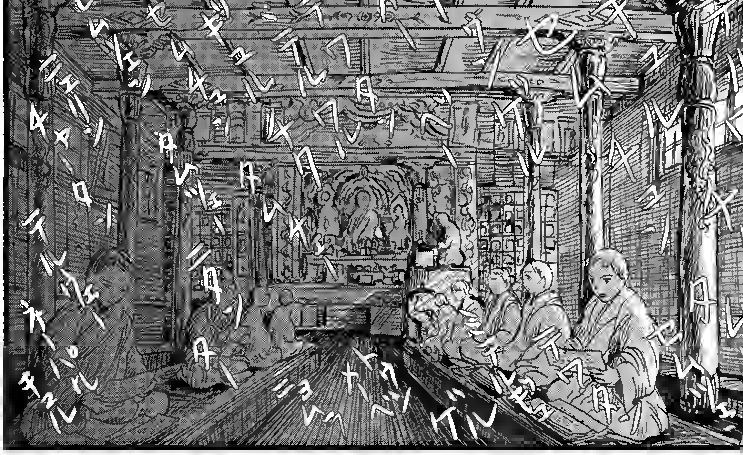
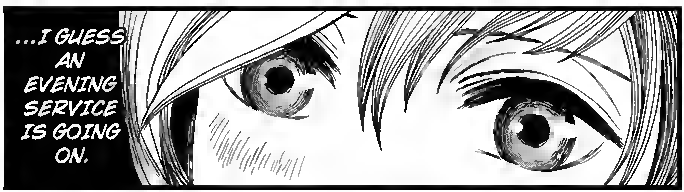
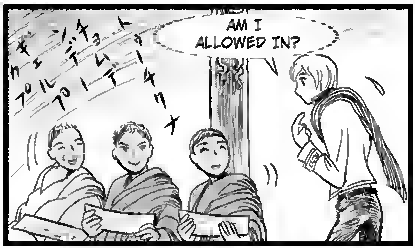
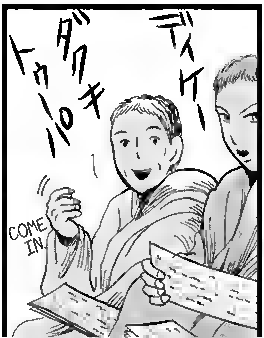
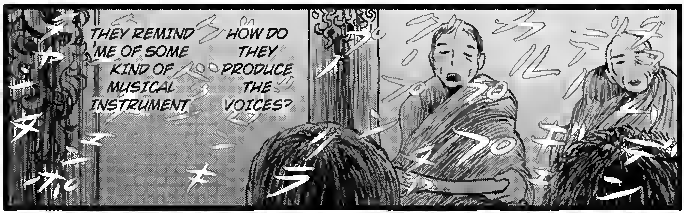
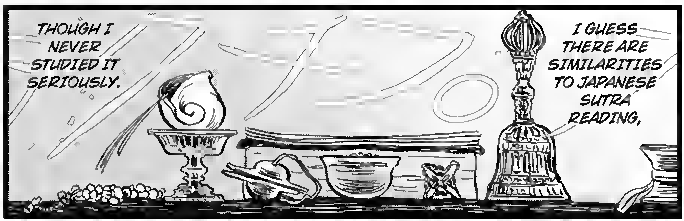


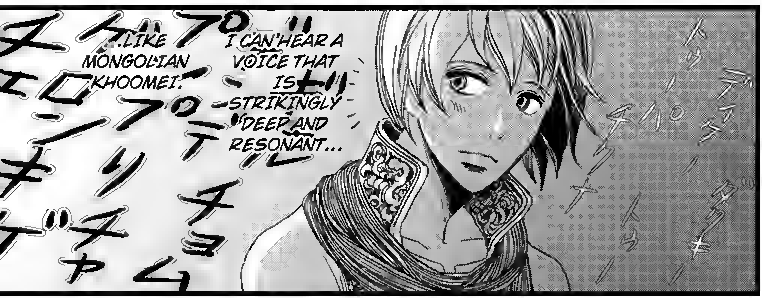




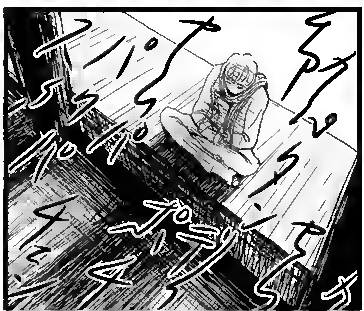


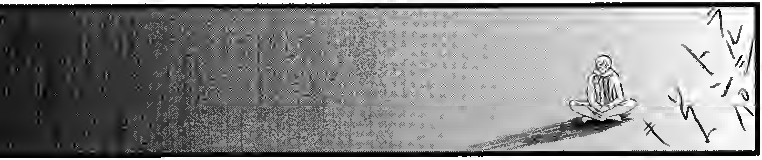

THEY REMIND ME OF SOME KIND OF MUSICAL INSTRUMENT
HOW DO THEY PRODUCE THE VOICES?


THOUGH I NEVER STUDIED IT SERIOUSLY.
I GUESS THERE ARE SIMILARITIES TO JAPANESE SUTRA READING,

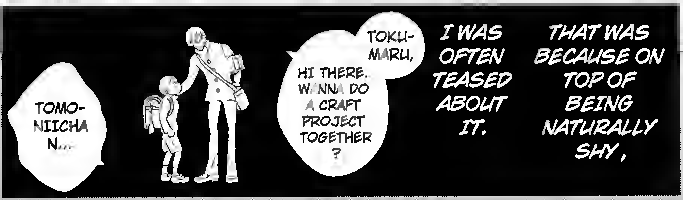

I CAN'HEAR A VOICE THAT IS STRIKINGLY DEEP AND RESONANT...
..LIKE MONGOLIAN KHOOMEI.

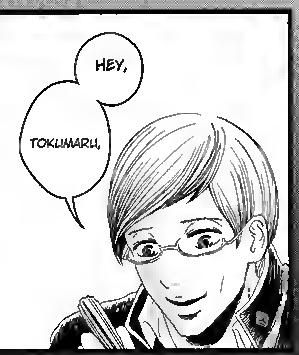
IT'S SONAM'S.
HE'S RECITING THE SUTR....
...

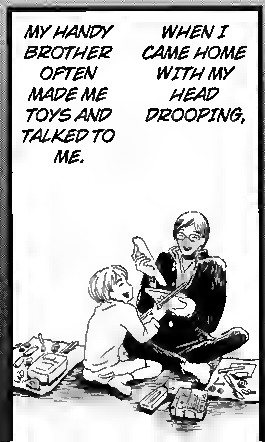


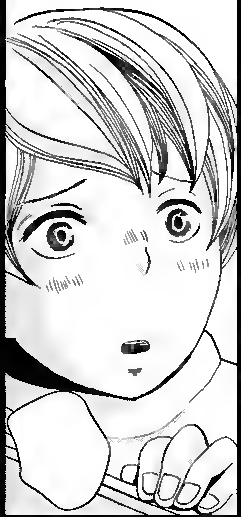


I'LL BE CURSED!
KID FROM A SCARY TEMPLE!
YOU SMELL LIKE INCENSE.
HERE COMES A GHOST!
BOO!
I HATED THE FACT THAT MY HOME WAS A TEMPLE.


TOMO-NIICHAN...
TOKU-MARU,
HI THERE. WANNA DO A CRAFT PROJECT TOGETHER?
I WAS OFTEN TEASED ABOUT IT.
THAT WAS BECAUSE ON TOP OF BEING NATURALLY SHY,

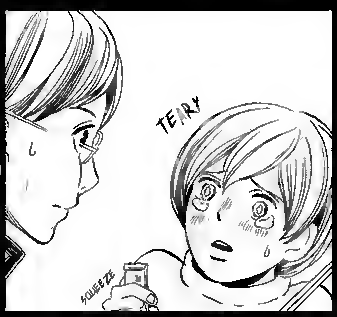

HEY,
TOKUMARU,

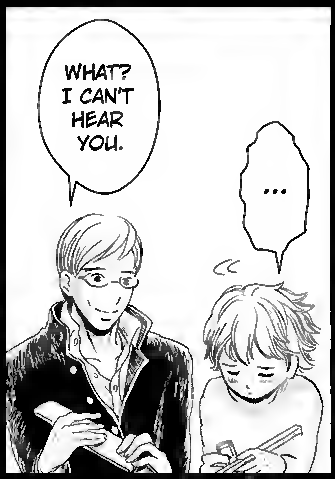

MY HANDY BROTHER OFTEN MADE ME TOYS AND TALKED TO ME.
WHEN I CAME HOME WITH MY HEAD DROOPING,

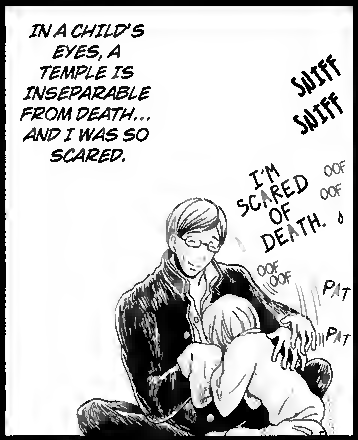


WOULD YOU HATE TO BECOME A MONK?

HUH?
DEAD...


TERRY
SQUEEZE


WHAT? I CAN'T HEAR YOU.
...

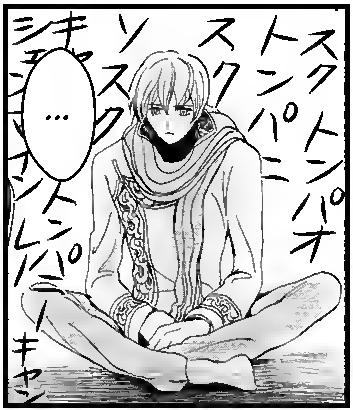

IN A CHILD'S EYES, A TEMPLE IS INSEPARABLE FROM DEATH... AND I WAS SO SCARED.
SNIFF SNIFF
I'M SCARED OF DEATH.
OOF OOF OOF OOF
PAT PAT

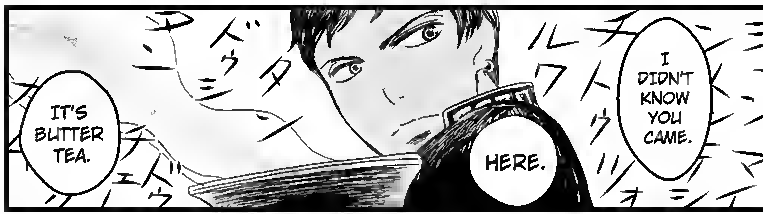
A MONK HAS TO GO TO FUNERALS SO OFTEN.
THEY'RE DEAD!
TOO MANY DEAD PEOPLE, DON'T YOU KNOW?

SIGH

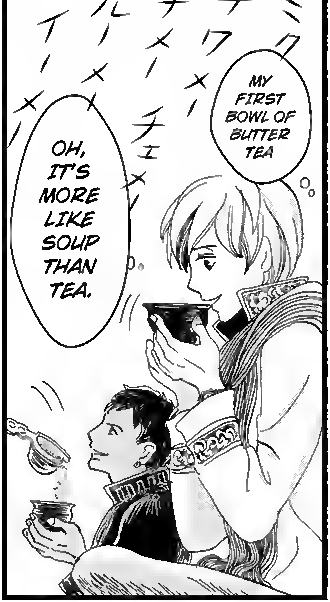
MEAN-WHILE, I DIDN'T...
HE GAVE UP HIS AMBITION TO BE AN ENGINEER AND BECAME OUR FATHER'S SUCCESSOR.
I HAVE NO IDEA AS TO WHAT HE WAS THINKING WHEN HE SAID THAT.
THEN I'LL HAVE TO BECOME A MONK, I GUESS.

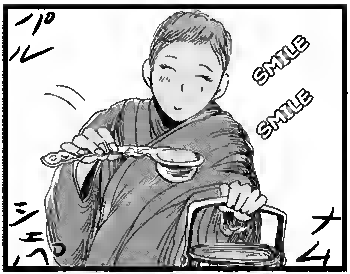
RUSTLE

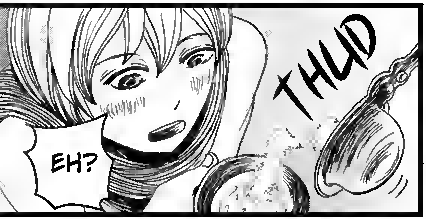

…


I DIDN'T KNOW YOU CAME.
HERE.
IT'S BUTTER TEA.

WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A RELIGIOUS SERVICE
IN TIBETAN TEMPLES, WE EAT DURING SERVICES.
THOUGH WE ONLY HAVE TSAMPA AND BUTTER TEA.

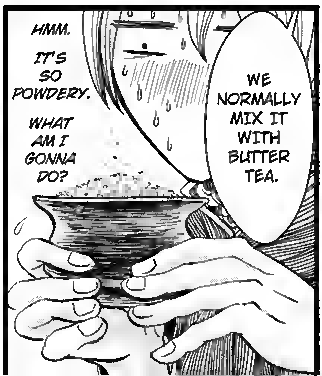

MY FIRST BOWL OF BUTTER TEA
OH, IT'S MORE LIKE SOUP THAN TEA.


SMILE
SMILE

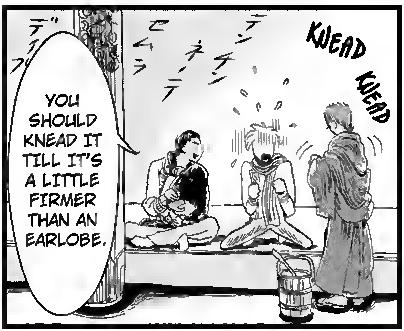

THUD
EH?

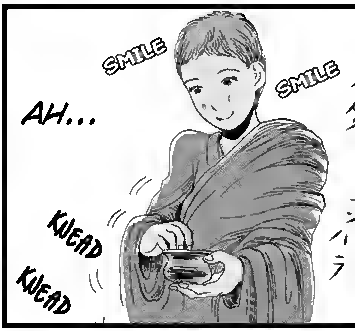
WHAT'S THIS?
IT'S TSAMPA.
MADE FROM ROASTED BARLEY.

DON'T YOU KNOW HOW TO EAT IT?
YOU GOTTA KNEAD IT, LET ME HELP.


WE NORMALLY MIX IT WITH BUTTER TEA.
HMM. IT'S SO POWDERY.
WHAT AM I GONNA DO?

NO THANKS
NO,

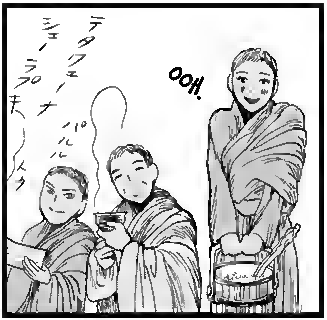

KNEAD
KNEAD
YOU SHOULD KNEAD IT TILL IT'S A LITTLE FIRMER THAN AN EARLOBE.


SMILE
SMILE
AH...
KNEAD
KNEAD

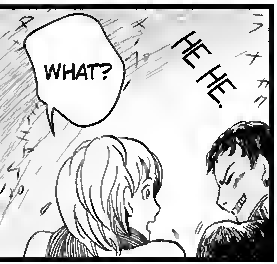
HERE GOES.
CHOMP

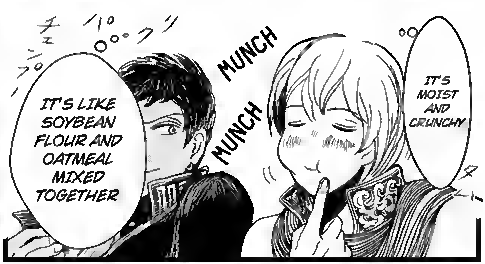
STARE

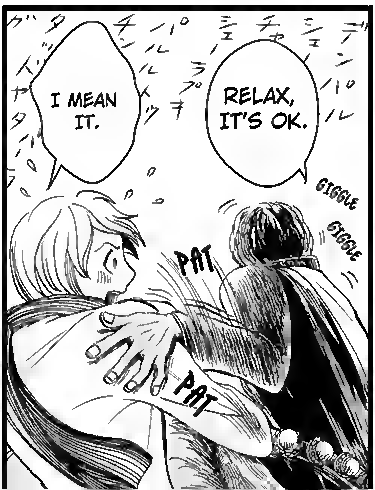
NOW IT'S LIKE A DUMPLING


OOH.

MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH
IT'S TASTY.

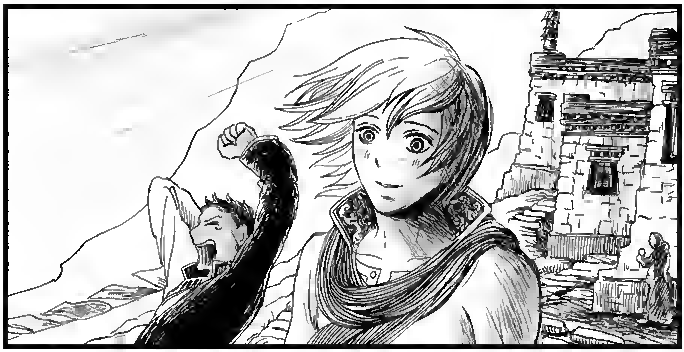

WHAT?
HE HE.


IT'S LIKE SOYBEAN FLOUR AND OATMEAL MIXED TOGETHER
MUNCH
MUNCH
IT'S MOIST AND CRUNCHY

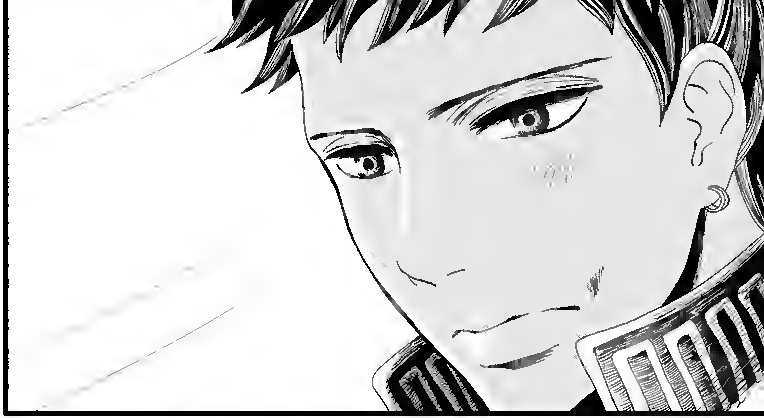

I MEAN IT.
RELAX, IT'S OK.
GIGGLE
GIGGLE
PAT
PAT

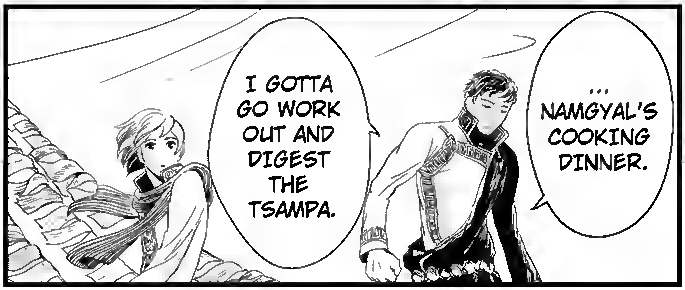
I KNOW YOU COULDN'T SAY NO 'CAUSE THE NUN IS STILL A GIRL
NO, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.
IT'S REALLY GOOD.

WOW.

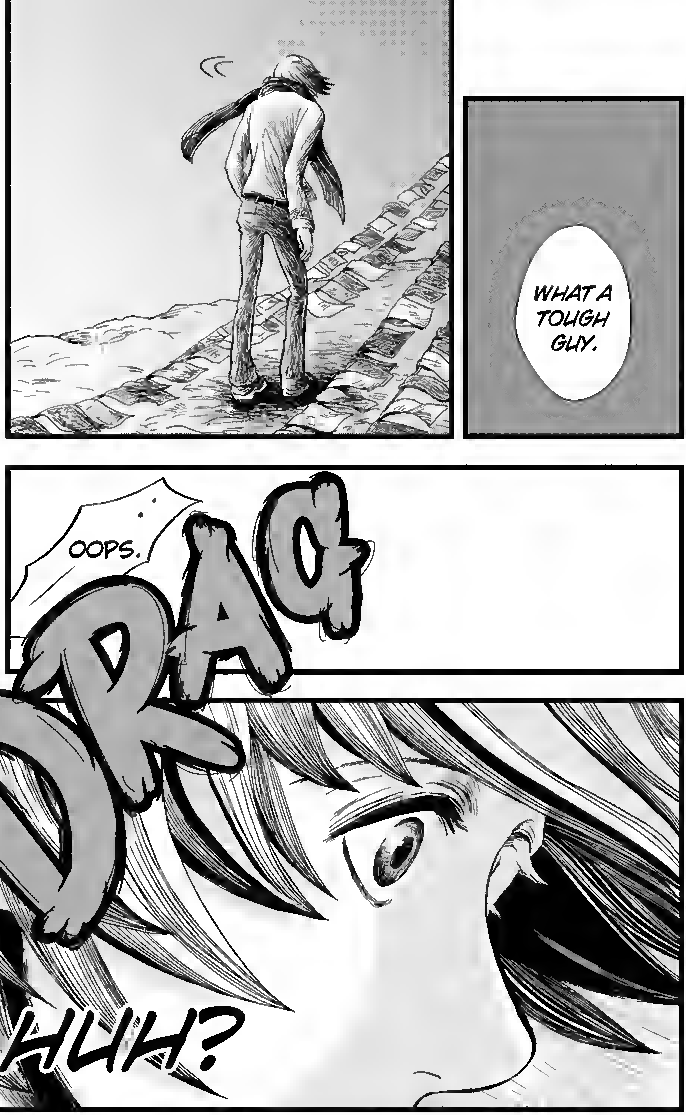


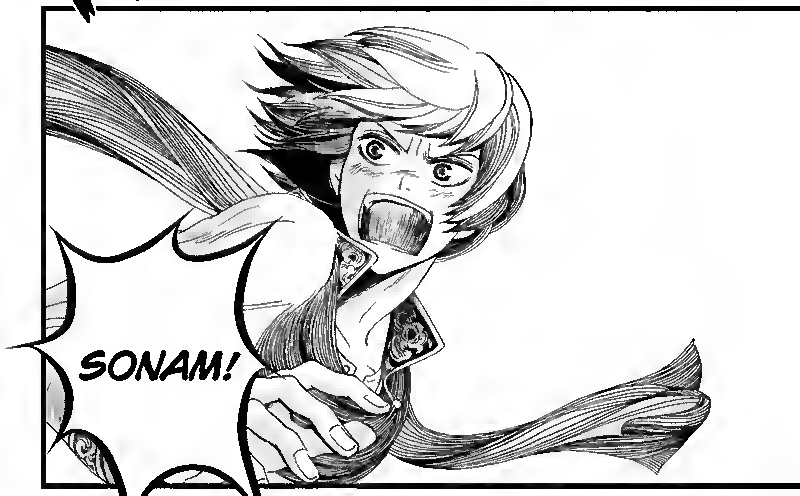
?
ARE YOU TOUCHED ?
WELL..
IT'S JUST...
I DIDN'T LIKE TEMPLES BEFORE, BUT THIS ONE IS REALLY NICE.
YOUR FAMILY LIVES IN A TEMPLE, RIGHT?
YEAH
MAYBE THAT'S WHY.
FLAP FLAP
SO I LEFT HOME, BUT IT DIDN'T CHANGE WHERE I CAME FROM.
I WAS THINKING ABOUT MY CHILDHOOD DURING THE SERVICE




...
NAMGYAL'S COOKING DINNER.
I GOTTA GO WORK OUT AND DIGEST THE TSAMPA.

SERIOUSLY? AFTER WALKING ALL DAY?


WHAT A TOUGH GUY.
OOPS.
DRAG
HUH?



TO BE CONTINUED.

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MangaBox

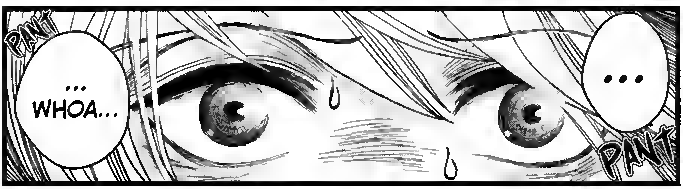
TRANSLATION BY RICHIKO AOBA
ERIKO TAKEI
ADAPTATION BY JESSI NUSS (JVTA)
SKY JAPAN, INC.

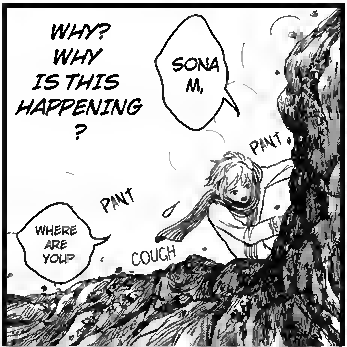
KURANISHI
GOING FULL CIRCLE PART 1

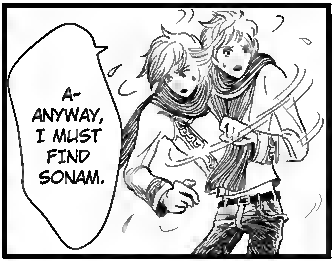
DONG
ROLL
ROLL
CLANK

RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
ROAR
!

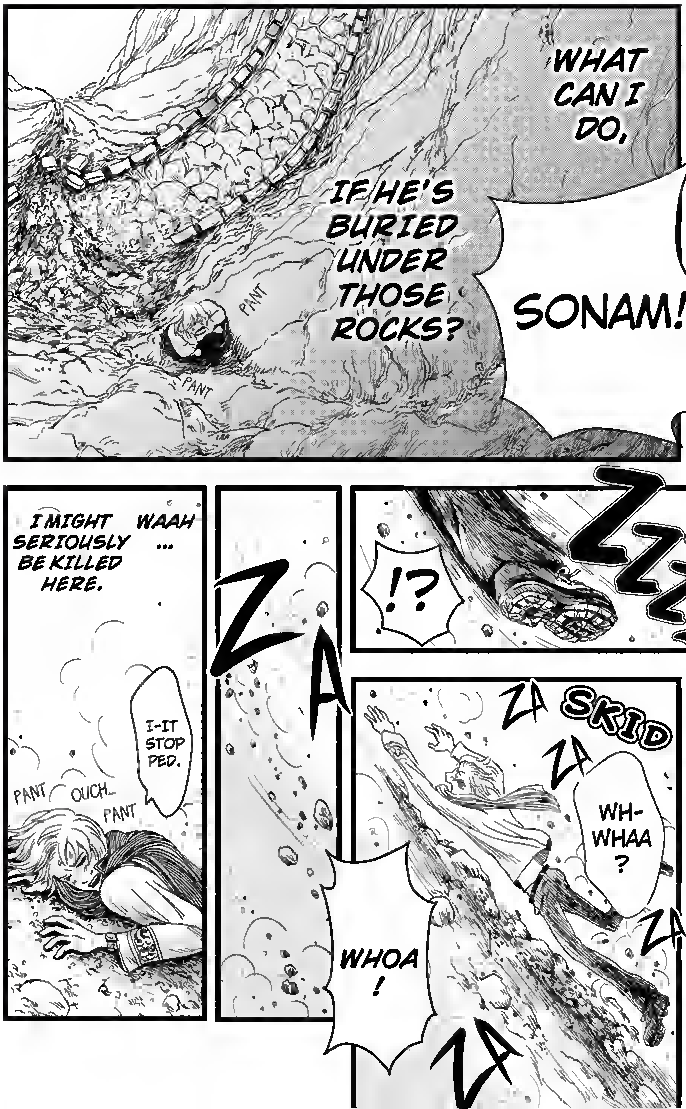
A ROCK-FALL ?!
SONAM.
NO WAY!
DASH
NO!
PANT
PANT
WHEEZE
PANT
WHEEZE
SNARL
PANT
PANT
WOBBLE
WHEEZE
PANT
PUFF
NO...
PUFF
PUFF

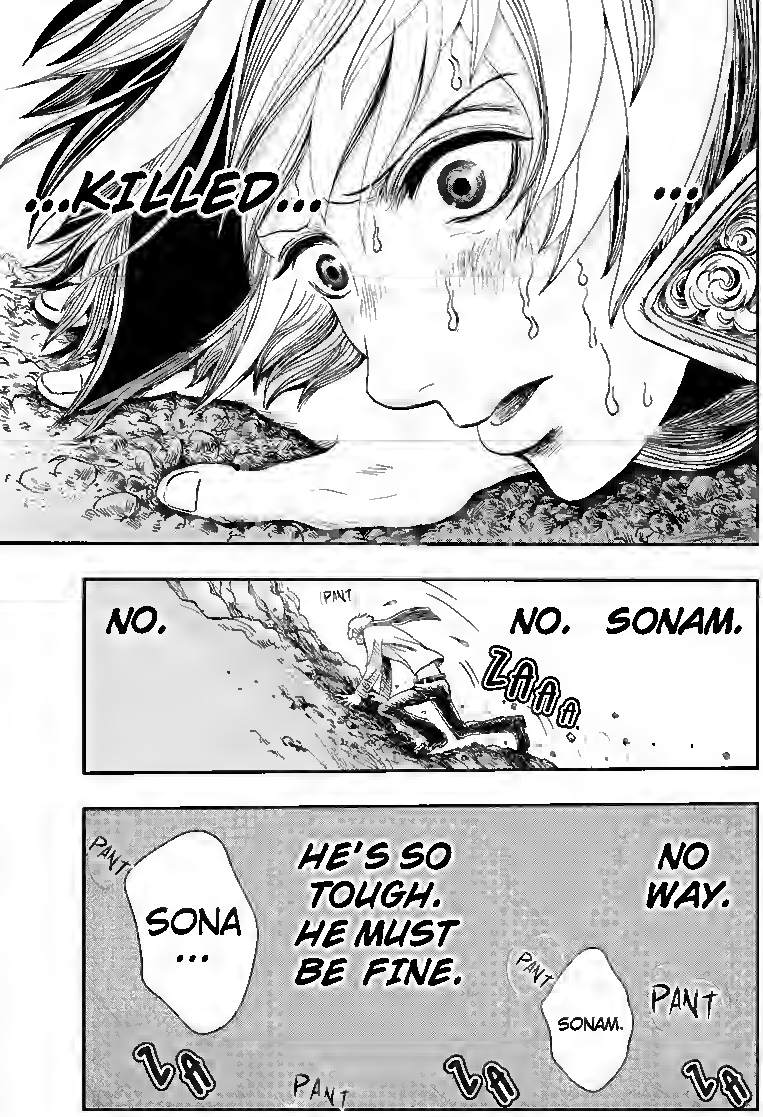

PANT
...
WHOA...
...
PANT


WHY? WHY IS THIS HAPPENING ?
SONAM,
PANT
PANT
WHERE ARE YOU?
COUGH

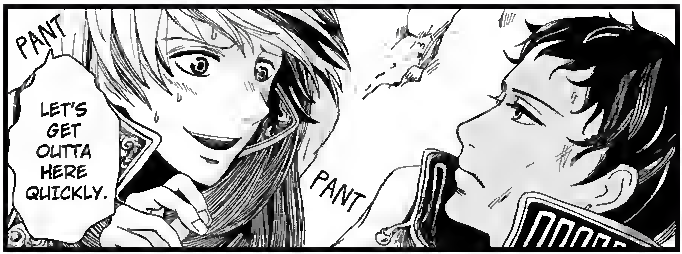

A-ANYWAY, I MUST FIND SONAM.

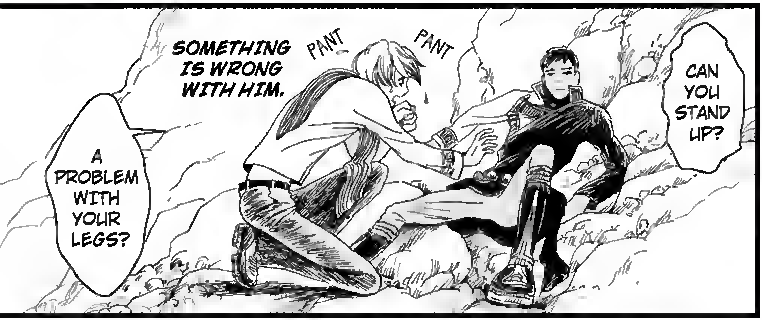
LET ME FIND HIM QUICKLY, PLEASE.
PANT
PANT
PANT
GO FAST, TOKU-MARU.
PANT
GO.
GO.
PANT
PANT
UGH.
RATTLE
ROLL
ROOOLL
ROLL
RATTLE
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
S-SCARY....
SLIDE
WE'RE IN GRAVE DANGER OF ANOTHER ROCKFALL.
PANT
PANT
WHEEZE
ZAAA
GO... GO, GO, GO.
RATTLE


WHAT CAN I DO,
IF HE'S BURIED UNDER THOSE ROCKS?
SONAM!
PANT
PANT
ZZZSH
!?
I MIGHT SERIOUSLY BE KILLED HERE.
WAAH ...
I-IT STOPPED.
PANT
OUCH
PANT
ZA
ZA SKID
ZA
WH-WHAA?
ZA
WHOA!
ZA


...KILLED...
...
NO.
PANT
NO. SONAM.
ZAAA
PANT
SONA ...
HE'S SO TOUGH. HE MUST BE FINE.
NO WAY.
PANT
SONAM.
PANT
ZA
PANT
ZA
ZA

...!
PANT
PANT
THERE HE IS!
OKAY?
I'M COMING.
PANT
PANT
MUDDLE
MUDDLE
ZA
ZA

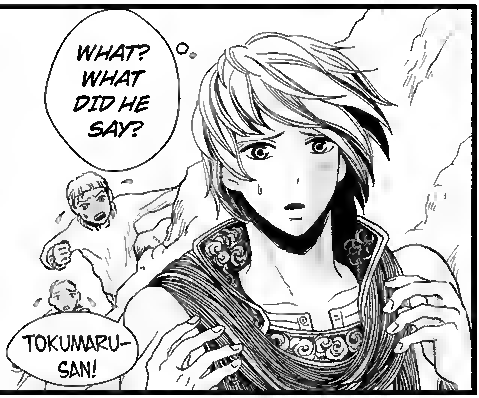

PANT
LET'S GET OUTTA HERE QUICKLY.
PANT


SOMETHING IS WRONG WITH HIM.
PANT
PANT
CAN YOU STAND UP?
A PROBLEM WITH YOUR LEGS?

...LOOK AT ME, SONAM.
DON'T LOSE IT.
W-WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?

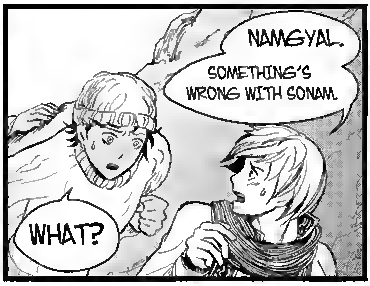
...PO...
...MA LANG.

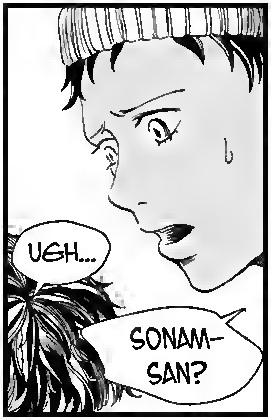
...PO MA LANG.
OOF
OOF
PO MA LANG.
OOF
PO MA LANG.
...PO...


WHAT? WHAT DID HE SAY?
TOKUMARU-SAN!

..PO MA LANG
...PO...
PO MA LANG.

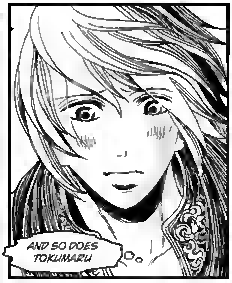
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
OUCH.


NAMGYAL.
SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH SONAM.
WHAT?


UGH...
SONAM-SAN?

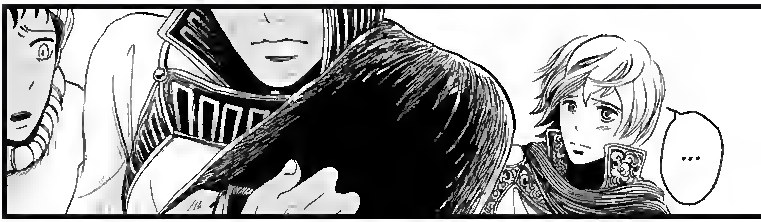
OH, SORRY.
IT HURTS..

...
AH!


AND SO DOES TOKUMARU.

...?
WHAT'S GOING ON? NAMGYAL LOOKS SO WORRIED.

ARE YOU GUYS STUPID?
STAND UP
GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE.
RELIEVED
THAT'S USUAL SONAM.
ROAR
IT COULD COLLA
OOPS.
T-THIS IS NOTHING
OF COURSE
OUCH.
CAN YOU WALK ON YOUR OWN?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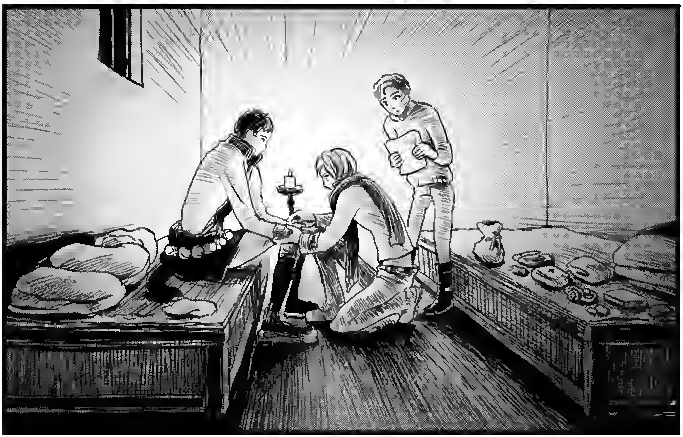
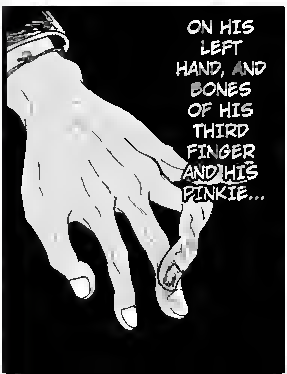
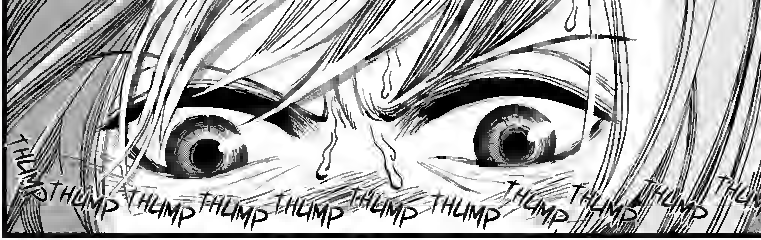
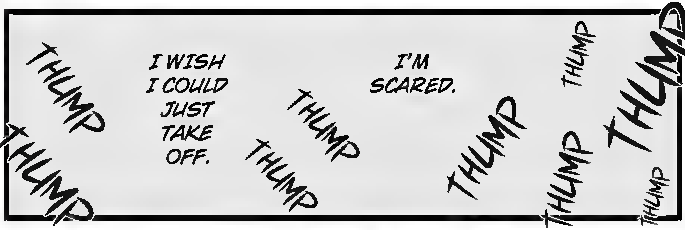



ON HIS LEFT HAND, AND BONES OF HIS THIRD FINGER AND HIS PINKIE...

HE'S ONLY GOT BRUISES.
EXCEPT ONE SERIOUS INJURY.

...ARE DISPLACED DUE TO FRACTURE.
THUMP
I'VE NEVER ACTUALLY DONE THIS BEFORE
THUMP
WHAT AM I GONNA DO?
WITH-OUT PROPER TREAT-MENT,
THE BROKEN BONES WILL SET IN THE WRONG POSIT-IONS.
THEY NEED TO BE FIXED.
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
DO I HAVE TO...
...TREAT IT?
THUMP


THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP

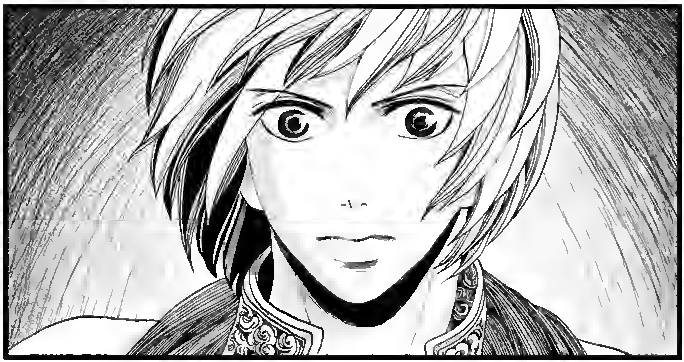

THUMP
I WISH I COULD JUST TAKE OFF.
THUMP
I'M SCARED.
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP

ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
DON'T TALK NONSENSE.

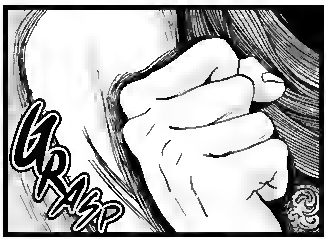
OUCH.

THESE ARE JUST BROKEN BONES, RIGHT? I CAN JUST LET THEM HEAL.

MY DAD LOST TWO FINGERS BECAUSE A HUNTING GUN DISCHARGED ACCIDENTALLY.
I STILL HAVE ALL MY FINGERS.



NO.

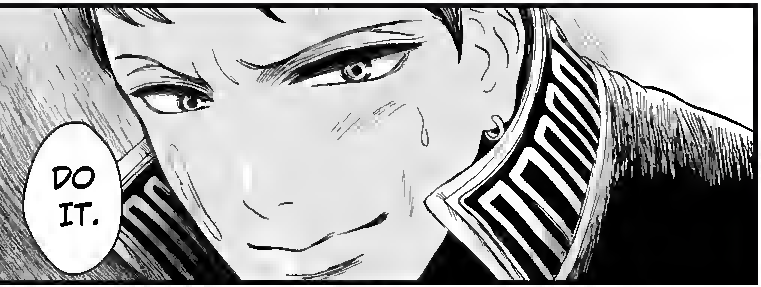

GRAB

WE CAN'T LEAVE YOUR FINGERS IN THIS CONDITION.
YOUR BONES NEED TO BE PUT BACK TO THEIR NORMAL PLACES.

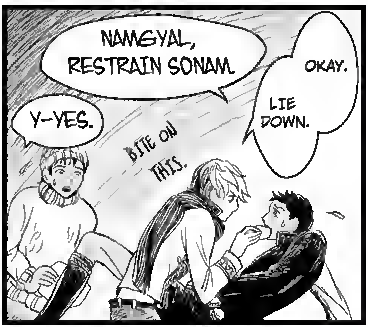
HEY. YOU KNOW HOW LONG IT TAKES TO GO BACK.
OR YOU HAVE TO LET ME TREAT YOU RIGHT HERE.
EITHER WE GO BACK TO LEHLI TO HAVE AN X-RAY AND TREATMENT FROM A DOCTOR,

AND IT'LL BE VERY PAINFUL AS THERE'S NO ANESTHESIA.
IF I TREAT YOU, IT WON'T BE PERFECT,

...
BUT I'LL DO THE BEST I CAN.


DO IT.

READY?
S-SURE

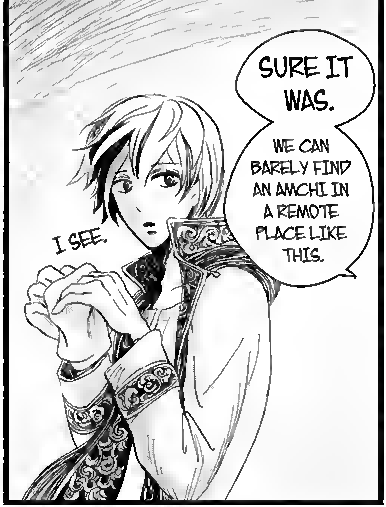

NAMGYAL, RESTRAIN SONAM.
OKAY.
LIE DOWN.
Y-YES.
BITE ON THIS.

RUB
RUB
CREAK
UGH...
SONAM-SAN, HANG IN THERE.
CREAK
...
CREAK
RUB
RUB
RUB
CRACK
CRACK
CRACK
CRACK
CRACK
CRACK

RUB
RUB
CRACK
CRACK
RUB
...
RUB
RUB
RUB
CRACK
RUB
CRACK
THIS IS DIFFI-CULT ...
CRACK

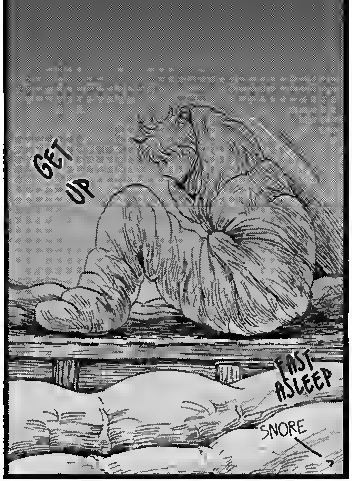
U-UGH.
UGH...
RUB
RUB
RUB
RUB
RUB
RUB
CRACK
CRACK
CREAK
CREAK
...
CRACK
CRACK
CRACK
DONE.
AH.
HE PASSED OUT.
HUMP
HUMP
I CAN USE A PEN AS A SPLINT AND FOR A BANDAGE ...
HOW COME I CAN'T TEAR IT UP EASILY LIKE IN COMIC BOOKS.
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
PHEW

...OH.
I WAS SO SCARED.
TOKUMARU-SAN.
THANKS.
TORN
SPLIT
HE SURVIVED THE ROCKFALL,
SONAM-SAN WAS LUCKY.
HUH?
AND YOU TREATED HIM.
WAS THAT LUCKY TOO?



AMCHI PHYSICIANS OF THE TIBETAN MEDICINE BASED ON THE HERBS AND NATURAL PRODUCTS OF TIBET

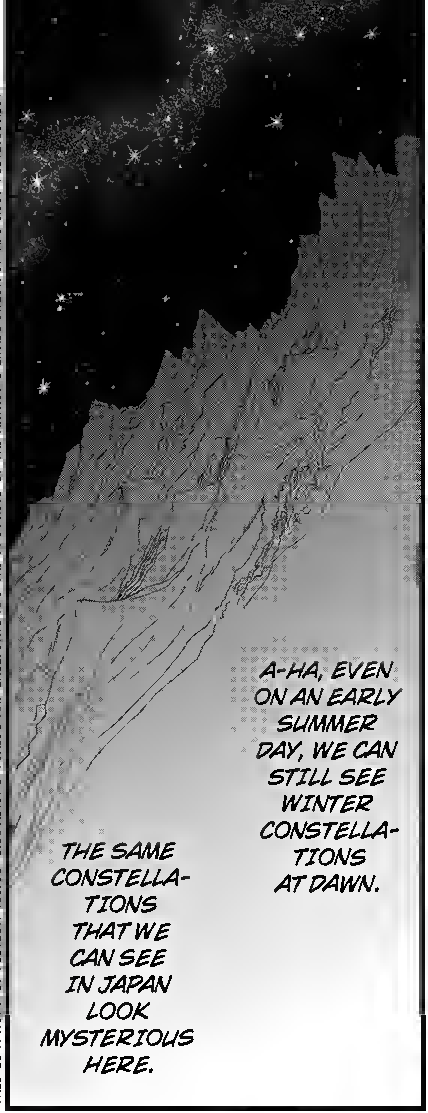
I'M WIDE AWAKE.
I CAN'T GO BACK TO SLEEP ANY MORE.


GET UP
FAST ASLEEP
SNORE

...
WOW, THE STAR-FILLED SKY IS STUNNING
TO BE CONTINUED.

SCHOOL'S SHUT

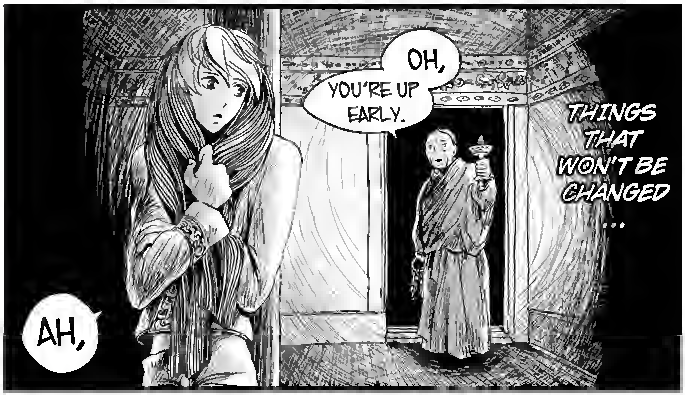
THIS IS A WORK OF FICTION. NAMES, CHARACTERS, PLACES AND INCIDENTS ARE THE PRODUCTS OF THE AUTHOR'S IMAGINATION OR ARE USED FICTITIOUSLY.

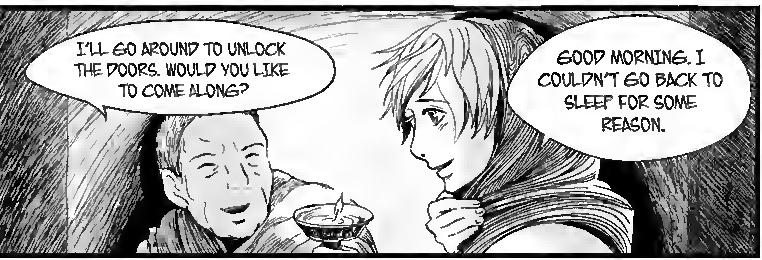

A-HA, EVEN ON AN EARLY SUMMER DAY, WE CAN STILL SEE WINTER CONSTELLATIONS AT DAWN.
THE SAME CONSTELLATIONS THAT WE CAN SEE IN JAPAN LOOK MYSTERIOUS HERE.

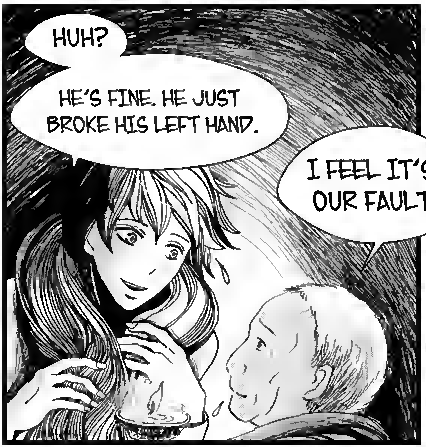
GOING FULL CIRCLE - PART 2

TRANSLATION BY RICHIKO AOBA
ERIKO TAKEI
ADAPTATION BY JESSI NUSSICIVTA
SKY JAPAN, INC.

THINGS THAT CAN BE CHANGED ...
THINGS THAT DON'T CHANGE, THINGS THAT CHANGE,


OH, YOU'RE UP EARLY.
AH,
THINGS THAT WON'T BE CHANGED ...

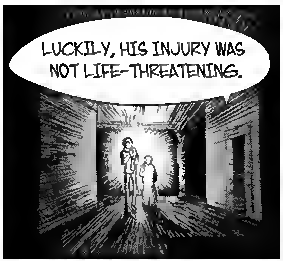

I'LL GO AROUND TO UNLOCK THE DOORS. WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME ALONG?
GOOD MORNING. I COULDN'T GO BACK TO SLEEP FOR SOME REASON.


HUH?
HE'S FINE. HE JUST BROKE HIS LEFT HAND.
I FEEL IT'S OUR FAULT.

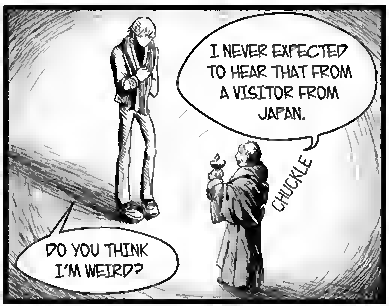
...HOW'S YOUR FELLOW TRAVELER?

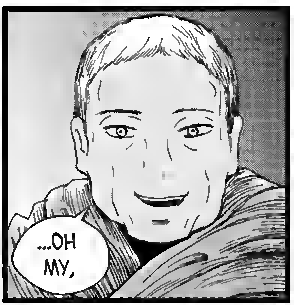
A ROCKFALL HAPPENED THERE IN THE PAST, BUT WE COULDN'T STABILIZE IT OR BUILD A DETOUR IN TIME.

MOTHER SUPERIOR,
BY ANY CHANCE,

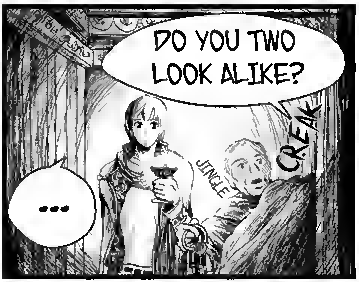

LUCKILY, HIS INJURY WAS NOT LIFE-THREATENING.

IS IT SOMEHOW RELATED TO THE OLD SAYING ABOUT THE NUN VALLEY?


I NEVER EXPECTED TO HEAR THAT FROM A VISITOR FROM JAPAN.
CHUCKLE
DO YOU THINK I'M WEIRD?


...OH MY,

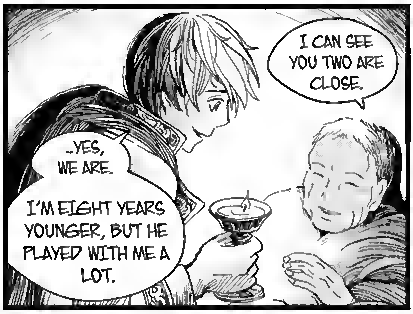
I WANT TO SEE MY BROTHER.

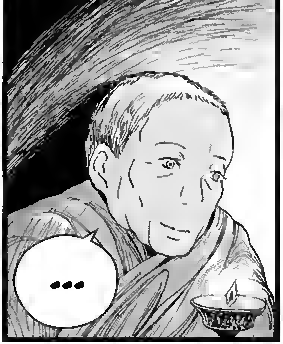

DO YOU TWO LOOK ALIKE?
...
JINGLE
CREAK

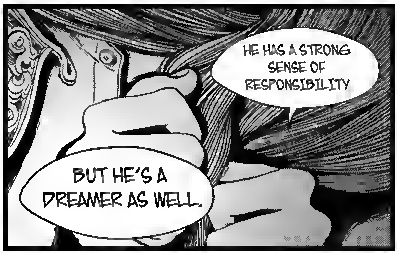
YOU'RE HERE TO LOOK FOR YOUR BROTHER, RIGHT?
YES.
CLICK

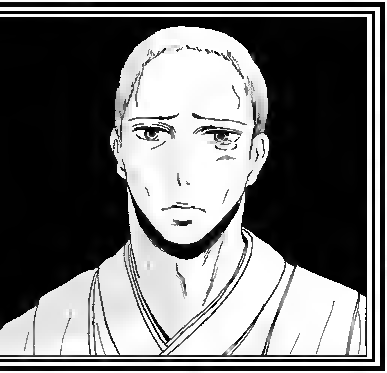
SO I'VE BEEN TOLD, BUT I DON'T THINK SO.
HE HAS A BIG BODY AND A BIG HEART.

...


I CAN SEE YOU TWO ARE CLOSE.
..YES, WE ARE.
I'M EIGHT YEARS YOUNGER, BUT HE PLAYED WITH ME A LOT.


...


HE HAS A STRONG SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY
BUT HE'S A DREAMER AS WELL.



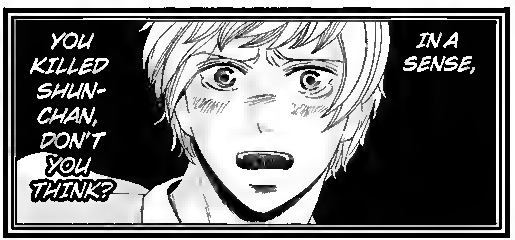
...

I...
...WANT TO APOLOGIZE TO HIM.

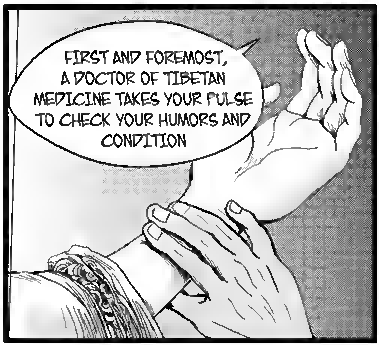
I HAD BEEN DEPENDING ON HIS GENEROSITY AND DUMPING ALL RESPONSIBILITY ON HIM.
BUT WHEN HE WAS HAVING A HARD TIME,

I SAID SOMETHING HORRIBLE TO HIM.
SOMETHING I SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID.

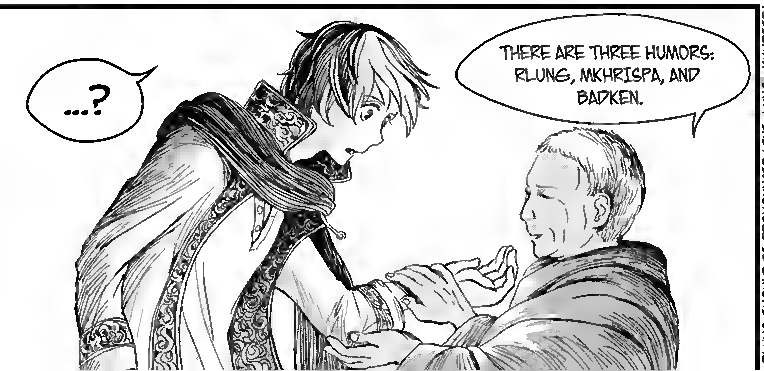
THAT'S WHY...


YOU KILLED SHUN-CHAN, DON'T YOU THINK?
IN A SENSE,

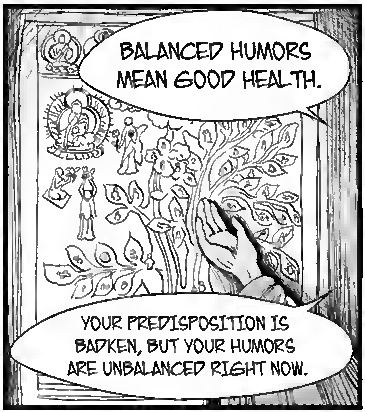
CLUNK


FIRST AND FOREMOST, A DOCTOR OF TIBETAN MEDICINE TAKES YOUR PULSE TO CHECK YOUR HUMORS AND CONDITION

IF YOU DON'T MIND, LET ME TAKE YOUR PULSE.
HUH?

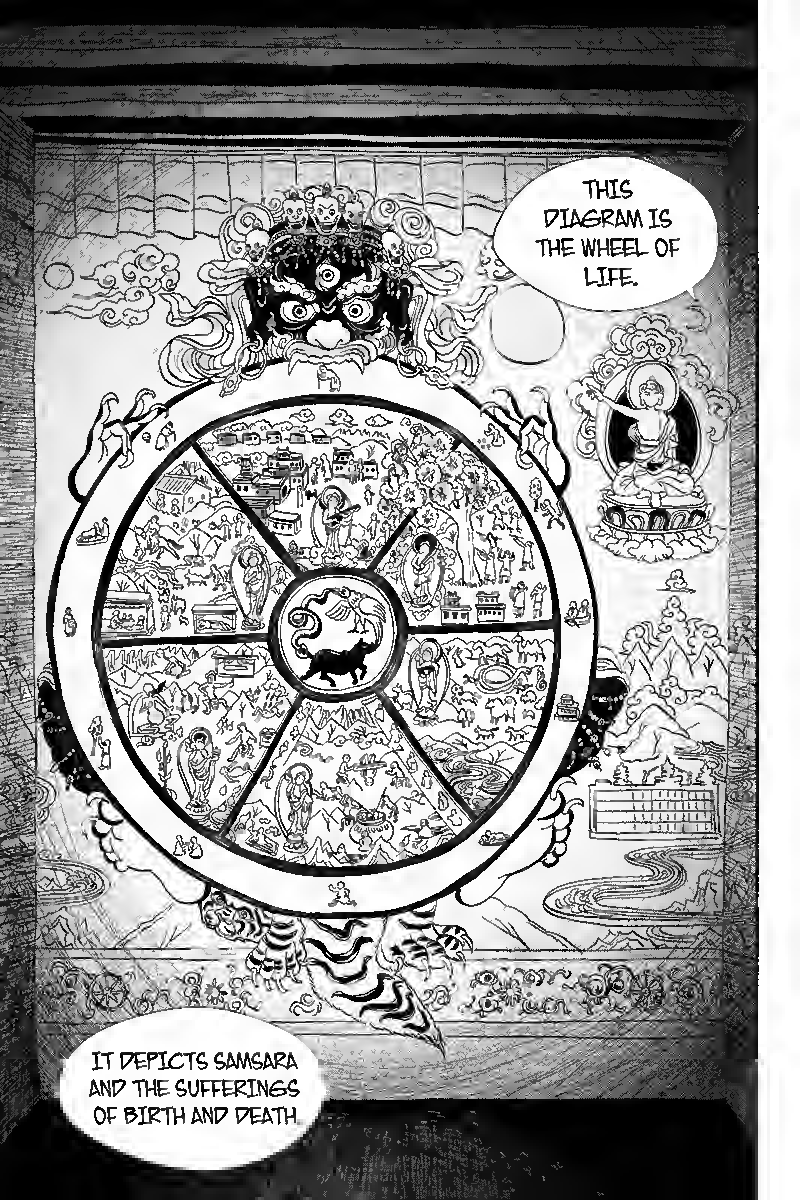

...?
THERE ARE THREE HUMORS: RLUNG, MKHRISPA, AND BADKEN.
RLUNG SHOULD BE PRONOUNCED LIKE 'LUNG', MKHRISPA LIKE 'TRIPA' AND BADKEN LIKE 'BEKAN.'

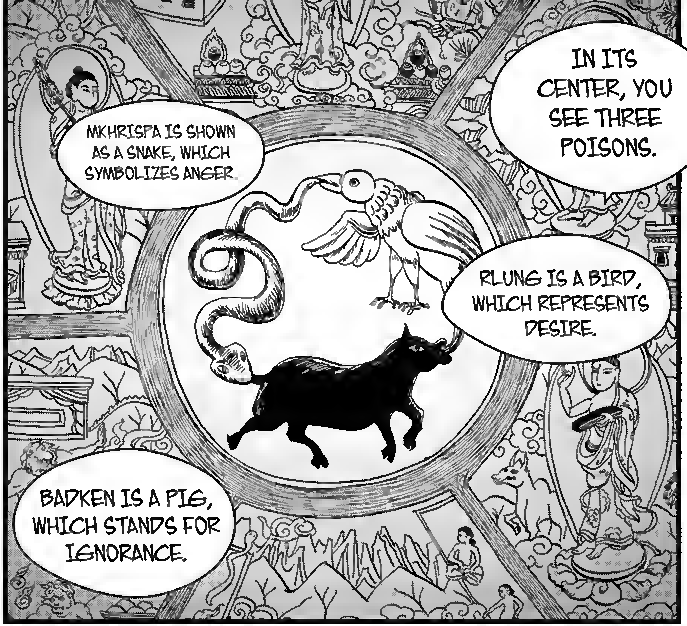
YOU CAN TELL THAT BY CHECKING MY PULSE?
YES, GENERALLY.


BALANCED HUMORS MEAN GOOD HEALTH.
YOUR PREDISPOSITION IS BADKEN, BUT YOUR HUMORS ARE UNBALANCED RIGHT NOW.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE HERE, I CAN GIVE YOU TIBETAN MEDICINES TO BALANCE THEM, IF YOU LIKE.

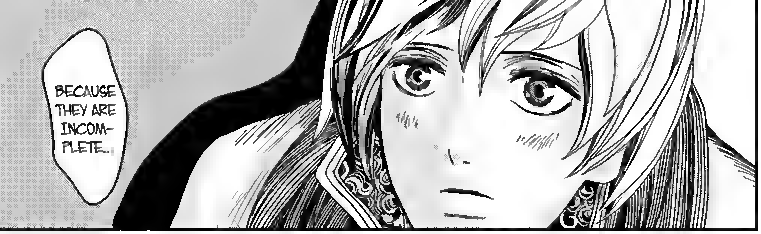
WHEN YOUR BODY IS IN GOOD ORDER, YOUR MIND WILL NATURALLY COME ALONG.


THIS DIAGRAM IS THE WHEEL OF LIFE.
IT DEPICTS SAMSARA AND THE SUFFERINGS OF BIRTH AND DEATH.

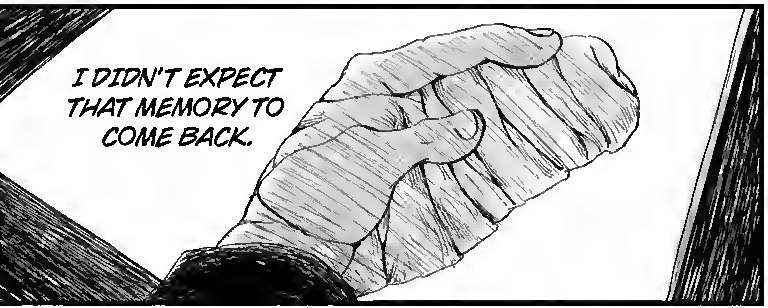

IN ITS CENTER, YOU SEE THREE POISONS.
MKHRISPA IS SHOWN AS A SNAKE, WHICH SYMBOLIZES ANGER.
RLUNG IS A BIRD, WHICH REPRESENTS DESIRE.
BADKEN IS A PIG, WHICH STANDS FOR IGNORANCE.

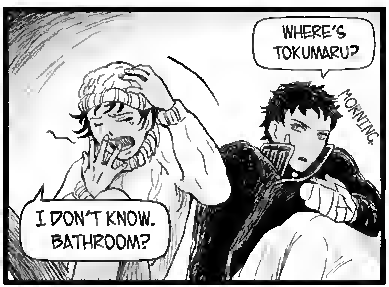
IT'S GOOD BECAUSE THEY ARE INCOMPLETE.

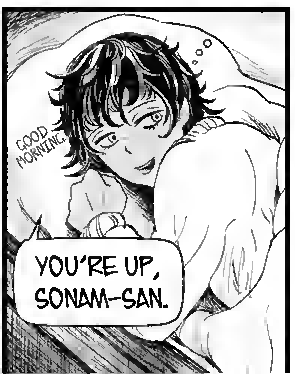
A PIG... IGNORANCE.
EACH BITES ON ANOTHER'S TAIL.

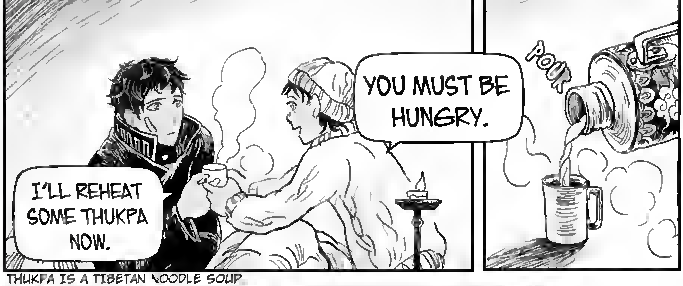

BECAUSE THEY ARE INCOM-PLETE.

PO MA LANG
(I'M SORRY)

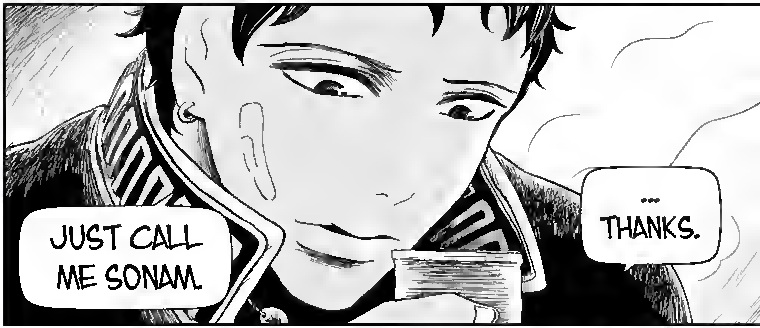

I DIDN'T EXPECT THAT MEMORY TO COME BACK.

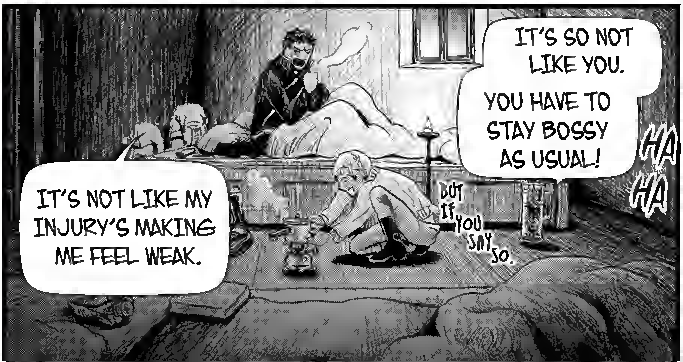

WHERE'S TOKUMARU?
MORNING.
I DON'T KNOW. BATHROOM?


GOOD MORNING.
YOU'RE UP, SONAM-SAN.



THUKPA IS A TIBETAN NOODLE SOUP.

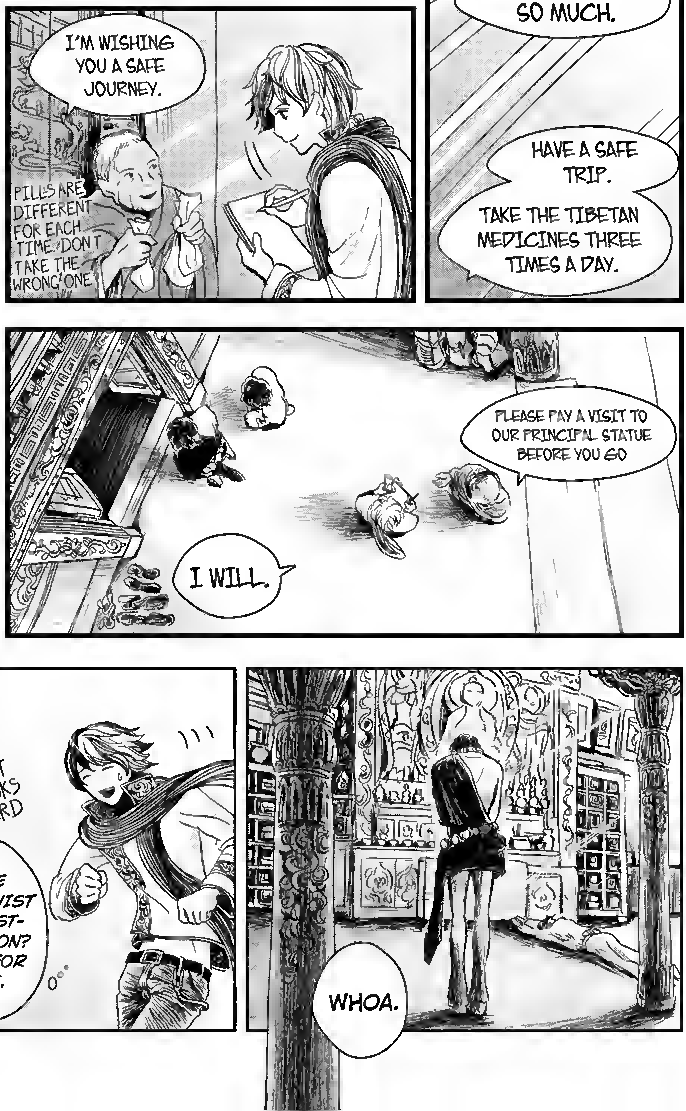


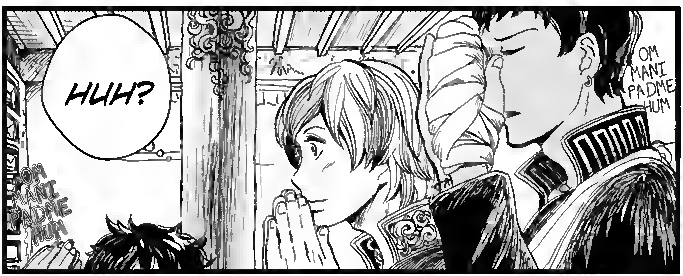


CLANG
YOU CAN TELL TIME WITHOUT A WATCH?
I STRETCH MY ARM LIKE THIS.
EXCUSE ME. IT'S TIME FOR THE MORNING SERVICE.
IF I CAN SEE MY PALM LINES, THEN IT'S TIME FOR THE SERVICE.
THE BELL IS LATE THIS MORNING.
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
AH!

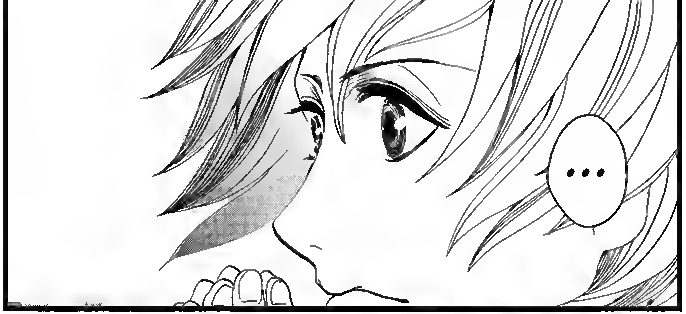
ガラン

ズズン


I'M WISHING YOU A SAFE JOURNEY.
PILLS ARE DIFFERENT FOR EACH TIME. DON'T TAKE THE WRONG ONE.
THANK YOU SO MUCH.
HAVE A SAFE TRIP.
TAKE THE TIBETAN MEDICINES THREE TIMES A DAY.
PLEASE PAY A VISIT TO OUR PRINCIPAL STATUE BEFORE YOU GO
I WILL.
THAT LOOKS HARD
THE BUDDHIST PROST-RATION? NOT FOR ME.
WHOA.



OM MANI PADME HUM IS A MOST POPULAR AND IMPORTANT MANTRA IN THE TIBETAN BUDDHISM. IT MEANS "PRAISE TO THE JEWEL IN THE LOTUS"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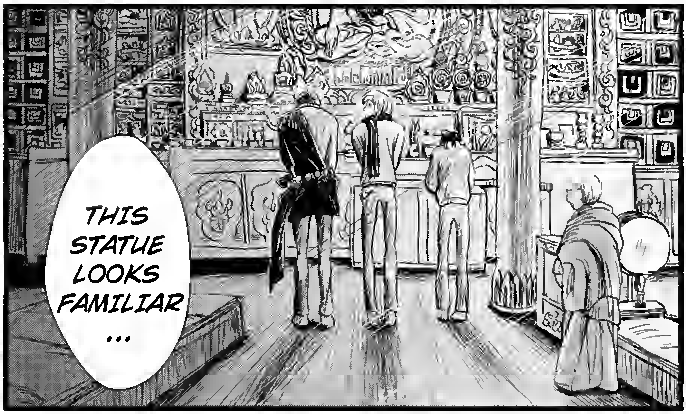

THIS STATUE LOOKS FAMILIAR ...

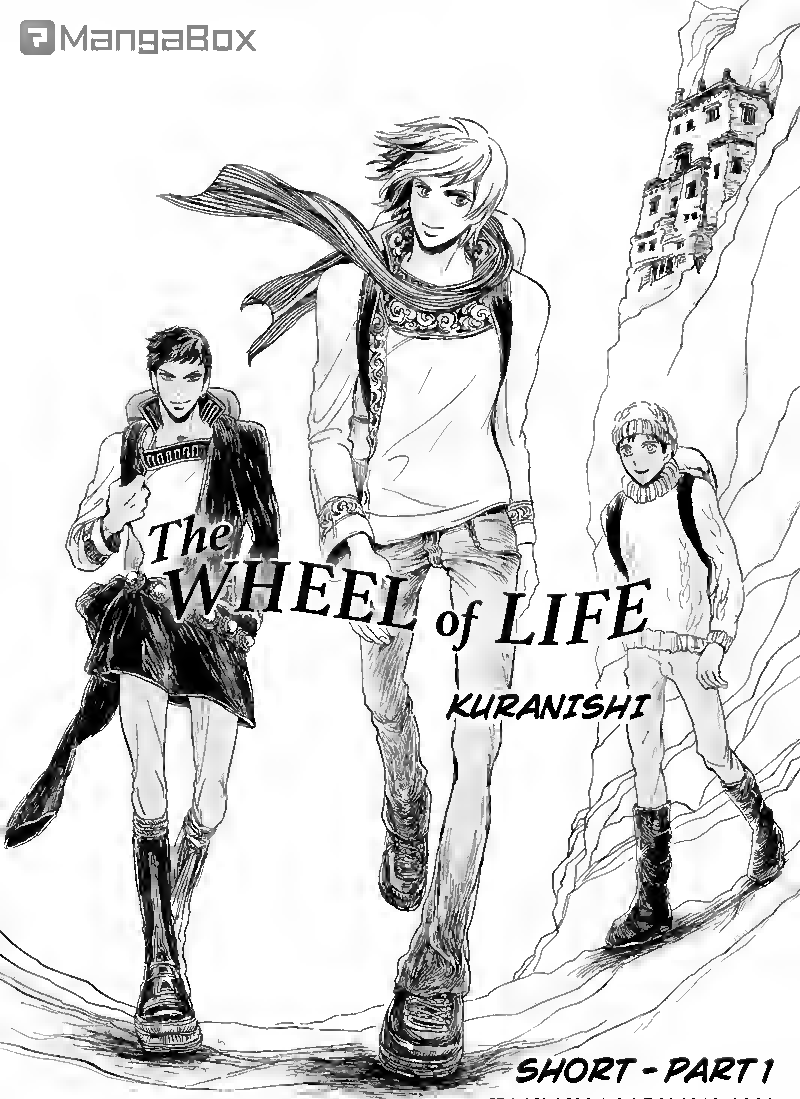
TOKUMARU, LET'S GO. WE'LL SLEEP OUTSIDE TONIGHT

NO WAY.
LIGHTEN UP. THERE'LL BE SOMETHING YOU JAPANESE LIKE.

WHAT'S THAT?
AH... IT'S A SPRING WITH HOT WATER ...
WHAT IS IT CALLED IN JAPANESE -?
LIKE DOUBLE...
YOU MEAN ONSEN, A HOT SPRING ?

THAT'S IT.
FOR REAL?
TO BE CONTINUED.

MangaBox



The WHEEL of LIFE

KURANISHI

SHORT - PART 1

TRANSLATION BY RICHIKO AOBA
ERIKO TAKEI
ADAPTATION BY JESSI NUSS (JVTA)
SKY JAPAN, INC.

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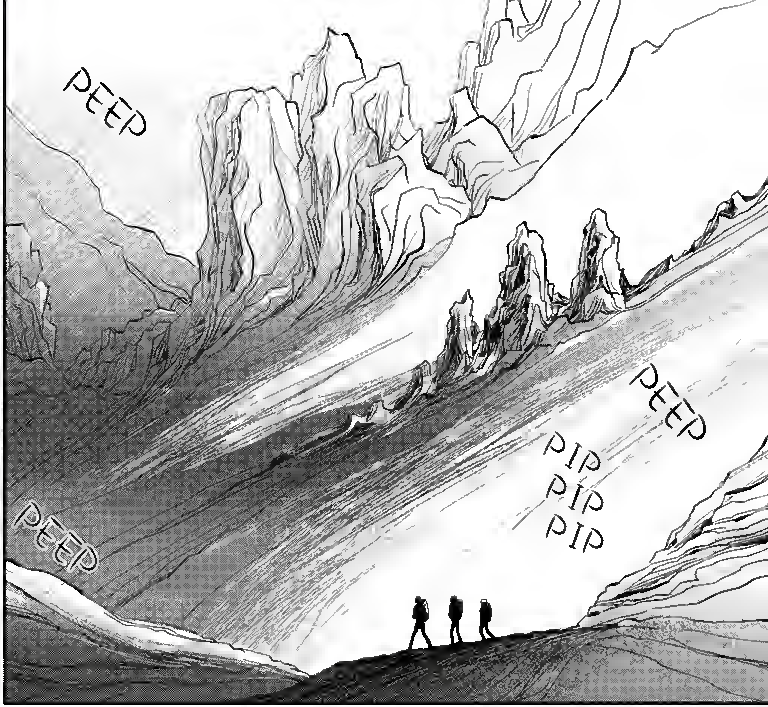
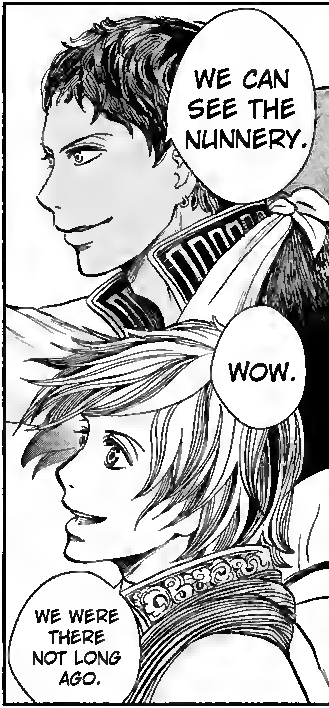
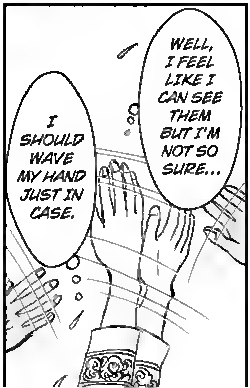


NAMGYAL IS SINGING A TIBETAN SONG.

YOUR VOICE MAY ECHO THROUGH THE VALLEY.
YOU, IDIOT!
OH... OKAY.
WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO IF THE BORDER PATROL FINDS US?
SING IN A LOWER VOICE.
IT'S A SICKENINGLY SWEET LOVE SONG.
ANYWAY, TOKUMARU, LOOK OVER THERE.
WHAT IS THE SONG ABOUT?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HOSPITALITY.

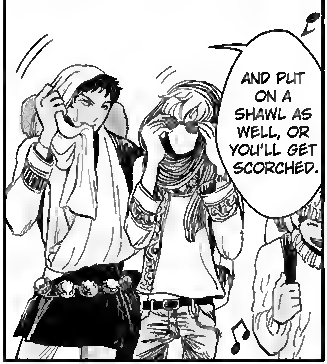

WE CAN SEE THE NUNNERY.
WOW.
WE WERE THERE NOT LONG AGO.


WELL, I FEEL LIKE I CAN SEE THEM BUT I'M NOT SO SURE...
I SHOULD WAVE MY HAND JUST IN CASE.

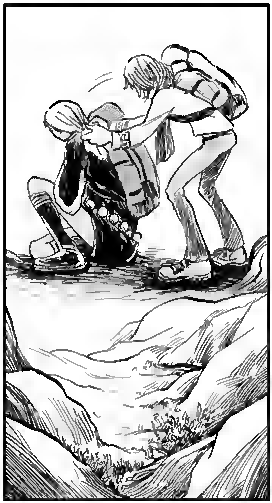
CAN'T YOU SEE THEM? THE NUNS ARE WAVING THEIR HANDS
REALLY?

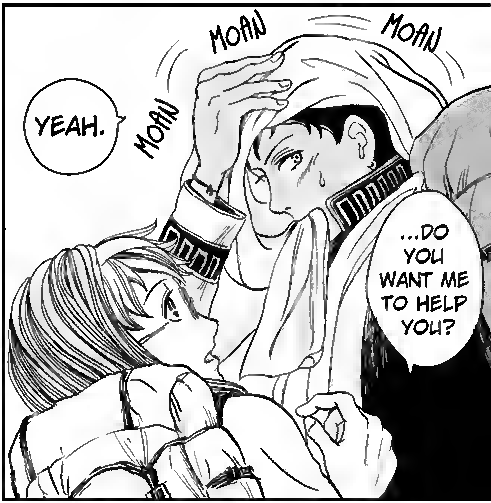
WAVE
HUH?
WAVE
OH!

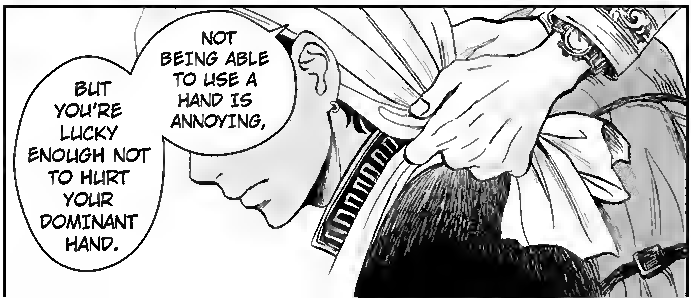
TOKU-MARU, YOUR EYES ARE RED.
OH?
YOU HAVE GOOD EYE-SIGHT.
GLARING
IS IT TOO BRIGHT FOR YOU?
THE SUN GETS STRONGER LATER AS NO CLOUDS ARE IN SIGHT.


AND PUT ON A SHAWL AS WELL, OR YOU'LL GET SCORCHED.

YOU HAVE SUN-GLASSES IN YOUR PACK, DON'T YOU?
HUH?
YEAH.
PUT THEM ON.
REFLECT-ION IS BAD AROUND HERE BECAUSE THE COLOR OF ROCKS IS WHITISH



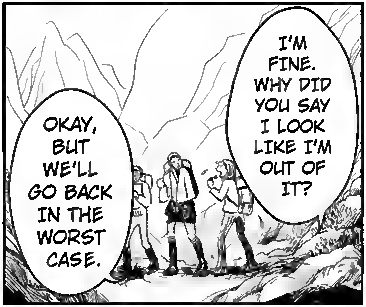

MOAN
MOAN
YEAH.
MOAN
...DO YOU WANT ME TO HELP YOU?


NOT BEING ABLE TO USE A HAND IS ANNOYING,
BUT YOU'RE LUCKY ENOUGH NOT TO HURT YOUR DOMINANT HAND.

...
A GUIDE SHOULDN'T GET INJURED.
I'M DISGUSTED WITH MYSELF.
NOT YOUR FAULT, IT WAS AN ACCIDENT.
YOU SHOULD BE GLAD THAT YOUR INJURY WASN'T LIFE-THREATENING.
...
WELL, I'M GLAD THAT IT'S ME WHO GOT INJURED.
IF YOU GET INJURED OR BECOME ILL, THIS TRIP IS HALTED IMMEDIATELY.
SO, HOW DO YOU FEEL? YOU LOOK WEAK BECAUSE YOU'RE PALE AND SKINNY.
AND YOU MOVE LIKE SLIGHTLY OUT OF IT.
IF YOU DON'T FEEL WELL, WE SHOULD GO BACK TO LEHLI.
OH!

G-GO BACK?
NO WAY... WE'VE COME A LONG WAY...

?
YOU MEAN TAKING THAT ROUTE BACK?
UGH
AH, ACTU-ALLY,

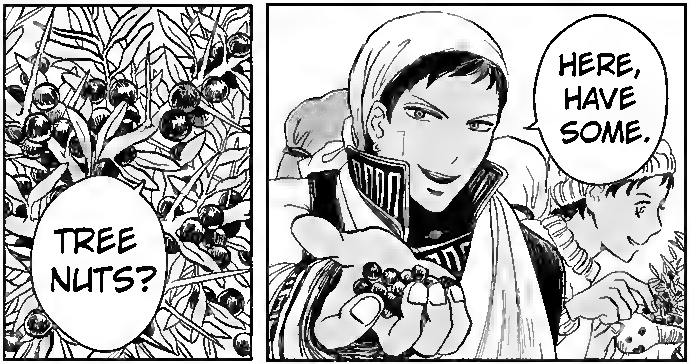

I'M FINE. WHY DID YOU SAY I LOOK LIKE I'M OUT OF IT?
OKAY, BUT WE'LL GO BACK IN THE WORST CASE.

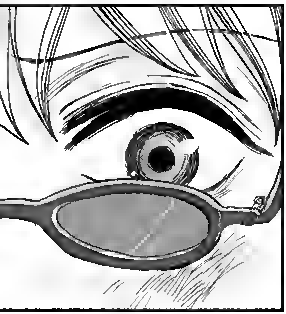
GRIN

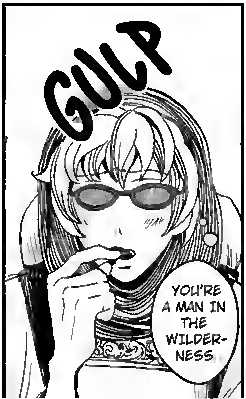
WHAT?

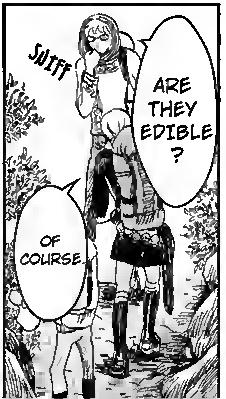
THERE'S A LONG LONG ROUNDABOUT PATH THAT IS SAFER.
MATTER-OF-FACTLY

I WOULD'VE PREFERRED THAT PATH.
YOU COULD HAVE ASKED ME.
PICK
PICK
WELL, BECAUSE WE WERE IN A HURRY.
AND I THOUGHT LESS TRAVELED ROUTE WAS BETTER FOR US.


HERE, HAVE SOME.
TREE NUTS?




GULP
YOU'RE A MAN IN THE WILDERNESS.


SNIFF
ARE THEY EDIBLE?
OF COURSE.

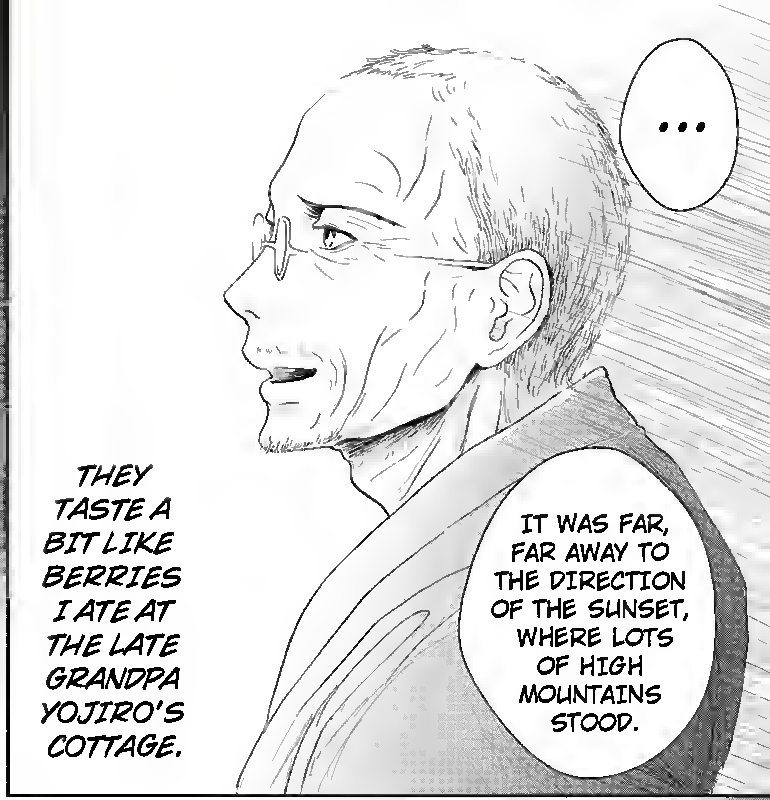
SOUR

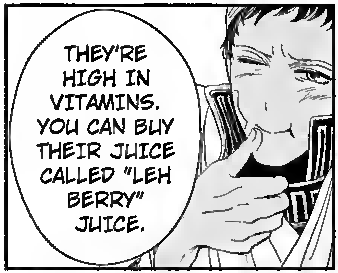
LOCALS CALL THEM TARUPU.
HEE HEE HEE
AWESOME REACTION
YUCK.
WHAT ARE THEY?
SONAM,
THEY'RE EXTRAORDINARILY SOUR.

...IT REMINDS ME OF SOMETHING IN SOMEWHERE AGES AGO!..

HAVE MORE
I HAD ENOUGH
DROP
DROP
BUT NOT A BAD TASTE.

LOOK YUMMY THOUGH.
GRANDPA, THESE ARE SOUR AND BITTER.
GRAND-P.
YOU LIED. YOU SAID I COULD EAT THEM.
THESE AREN'T THAT SOUR.
I ONCE PICKED AND ATE VERY SOUR BUT VERY NUTRITIOUS ONES.
THEY GIVE YOU ENERGY.
MAYBE YOU'LL GROW BIGGER IF YOU EAT THEM.
I DON'T WANT 'EM.
BUT WHERE DID YOU FIND 'EM?


...
IT WAS FAR, FAR AWAY TO THE DIRECTION OF THE SUNSET, WHERE LOTS OF HIGH MOUNTAINS STOOD.
THEY TASTE A BIT LIKE BERRIES I ATE AT THE LATE GRANDPA YOJIRO'S COTTAGE.

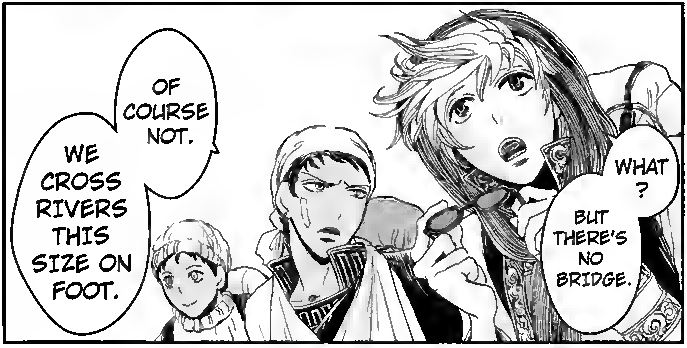


SEA BUCKTHORN, ALSO REFERRED TO AS LEH BERRY OR SEA BERRY, IS A HERB USED TO MAKE MEDICINE

HE'S RIGHT. I'M EXHAUSTED AND HAVEN'T BEEN SLEEPING WELL.
I WISH WE COULD RELAX IN A HOT SPRING.
UHM.
IF YOU THOUGHT THEY WERE GOOD, I GUESS YOU'RE EXHAUSTED AFTER ALL.
THE DEEP BLUE SKY ALMOST LOOKS LIKE BLACK.
SIGH...
TREMBLE
AND IT'S VERY DRY.
THE SUNLIGHT IN HIGH MOUNTAINS IS SCORCHING.

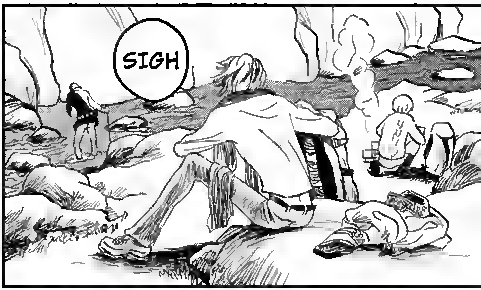
GRASP
PANT
HUH?
PANT
PANT
SONAM'S ACTUALLY ...
IN HIS OWN WAY,
TURN
... LOOKING AFTER ME.

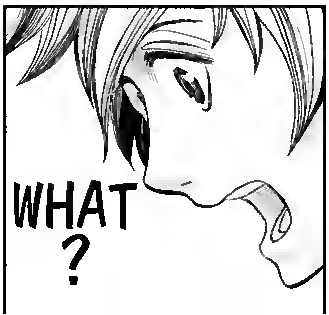
RUSHING WATER
WE'LL CROSS THE RIVER HERE.

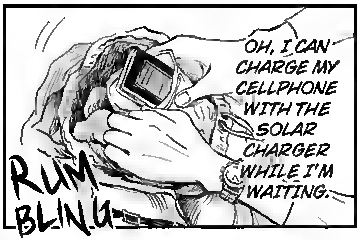

WHAT?
BUT THERE'S NO BRIDGE.
OF COURSE NOT.
WE CROSS RIVERS THIS SIZE ON FOOT.

NAMGYAL, PREPARE FOR TEA.
SURE.
I'LL GO CHECK WHERE WE CAN CROSS THE RIVER.
RUSHING

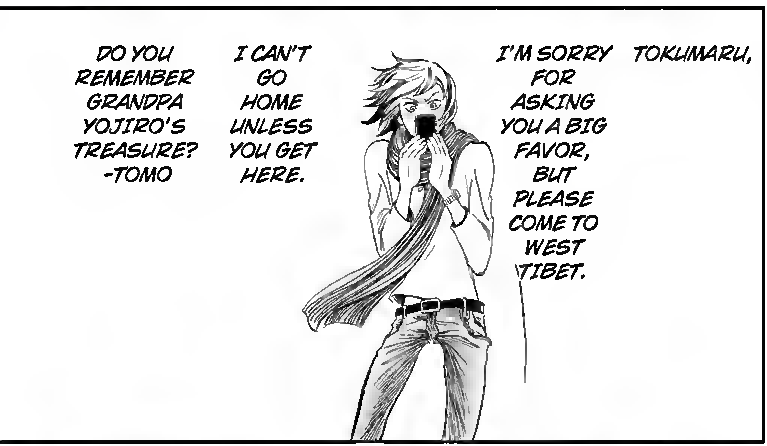
IT'S A FAST-FLOWING RIVER.
RUSHING

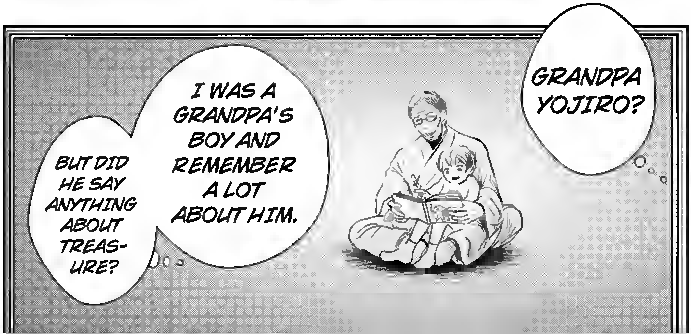

SIGH


WHAT?


OH, I CAN CHARGE MY CELLPHONE WITH THE SOLAR CHARGER WHILE I'M WAITING.
RUMBLING

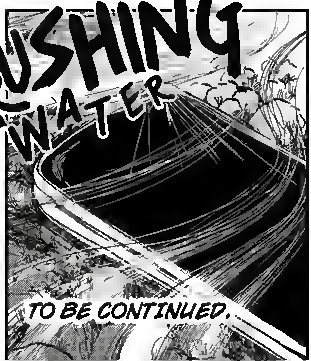
TEXTED ME?
TOMO-NII
TO:TOKUMARU TOKUDA
FROM:TOMO TOKUDA
NO SUBJECT

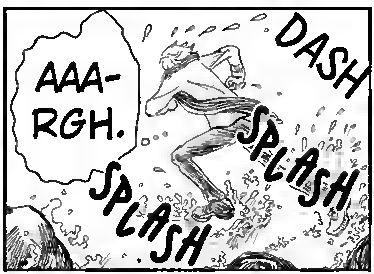

TOKUMARU,
I'M SORRY FOR ASKING YOU A BIG FAVOR, BUT PLEASE COME TO WEST TIBET.
I CAN'T GO HOME UNLESS YOU GET HERE.
DO YOU REMEMBER GRANDPA YOJIRO'S TREASURE? -TOMO

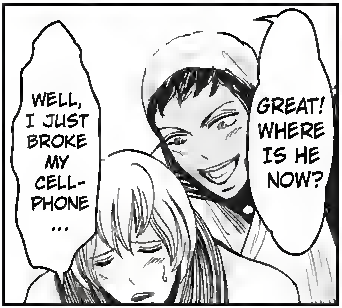

GRANDPA YOJIRO?
I WAS A GRANDPA'S BOY AND REMEMBER A LOT ABOUT HIM.
BUT DID HE SAY ANYTHING ABOUT TREAS-URE?

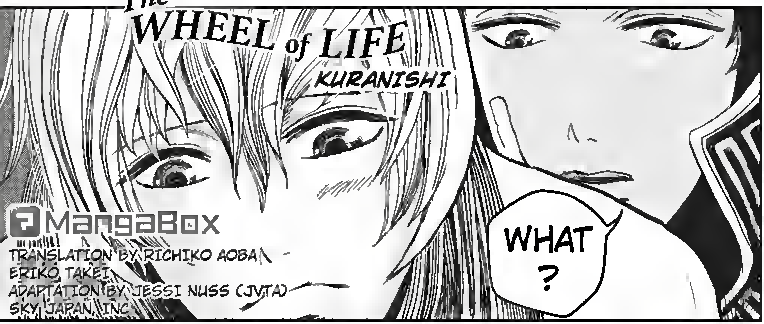
WHY CAN'T MY BRO GO HOME WITHOUT ME?
I SHOULD REPLY FIRST.
RUSH
TOMO-NII, IT'S TOKU-MARU. I'M IN WEST TIBET NOW.
WE'RE HEADING TO THE NUN VALLEY. WHERE ARE YOU, BRO? WHAT'S GRANDPA'S TREASURE?
SIGH
RELIEF
I'M HERE
SENT
PEEP
I'M SENDING THIS FOR NOW.
SLIP
WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?
TOMO-NII.

CRUNCH
WHOA.
OH, NO.
CRASH
THROW
RUSHING WATER
DROP


RUSHING WATER
TO BE CONTINUED.


AAA-RGH.
DASH
SPLASH
SPLASH





MangaBox

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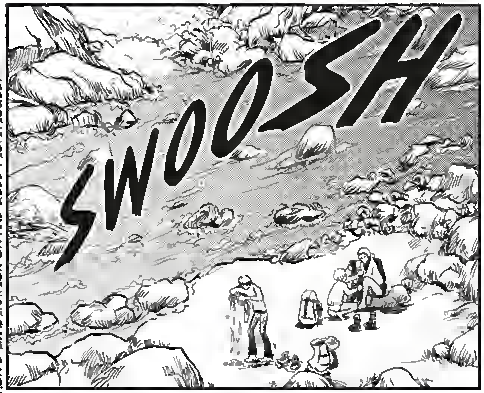
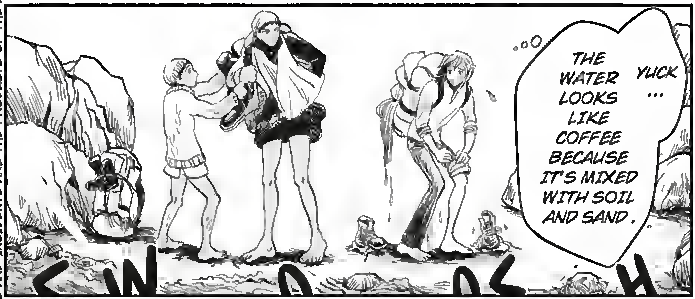


JUST WHEN I FINALLY GOT IN TOUCH WITH MY BROTHER ...

WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT BROKEN STUFF. NOW, LET'S GO.

Y-YEAH.



SWOOSH
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND THIS GREAT FEELING OF BEING FREE?
I NEVER WEAR SUCH USELESS THINGS
HUH?
WEARING UNDERWEAR?
BY ANY CHANCE, ARE YOU NOT...

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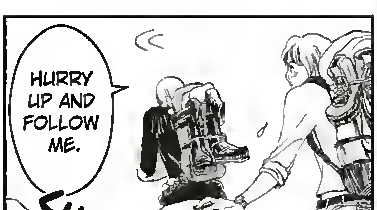
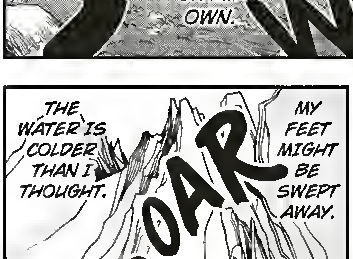
I'M SURE YOU'D UNDERSTAND IF YOU WERE A MAN.
HMPH
LET'S GET MOVING
FOLLOW ME
...
SWOOSH
LISTEN, ONCE YOU REACH THIS WHITE ROCK, MOVE TO THE LEFT.
SWOOSH
HEY, NOT THAT WAY.
A DEEP SPOT IS AROUND THERE.
WHOA!
THACK
I TOLD YOU.
I'LL HOLD YOUR HAND.
NO NEED. I JUST HAVE TO CROSS THE RIVER, RIGHT?
BESIDES, YOU'RE STRUGGLING WITH ONE INJURED HAND.

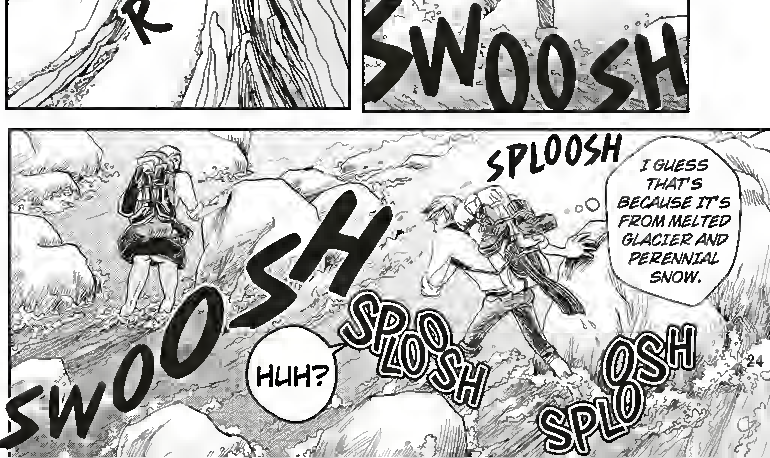

HURRY UP AND FOLLOW ME.
SWOOSH

...
OKAY.

HE THINKS I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ON MY OWN.
... SIGH.
SWOOSH


THE WATER IS COLDER THAN I THOUGHT.
ROAR
MY FEET MIGHT BE SWEPT AWAY.

WHOA.
WOBBLE
SWOOSH

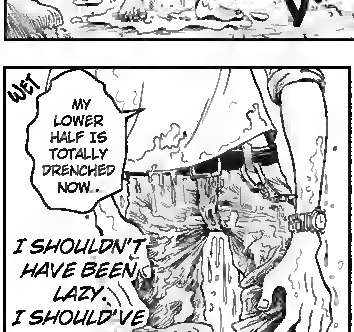

SPLOOSH
I GUESS THAT'S BECAUSE IT'S FROM MELTED GLACIER AND PERENNIAL SNOW.
SWOOSH
HUH?
SPLOSH
SPLOSH
SPLOSH

SWOOSH
...DON'T WORRY. I'M FINE.
SWOOSH
THE ROCKS AROUND THERE AREN'T STABLE.
SWOOSH
TELL ME IF YOU NEED MY HELP.
SWOOSH
...
SWOOSH
I MAY BE PATHETIC BUT I'M NOT A WIMP.
SWOOSH
DON'T TAKE ANY CHANCES.
SWOOSH
SPLASH
TOKUMARU-SAN!
OOPS.
OOPS.
WOBBLE
WHOA!
SWOOSH

UH OH.
NOT ONLY YOUR CELL-PHONE, BUT NOW YOU FELL INTO THE WATER.

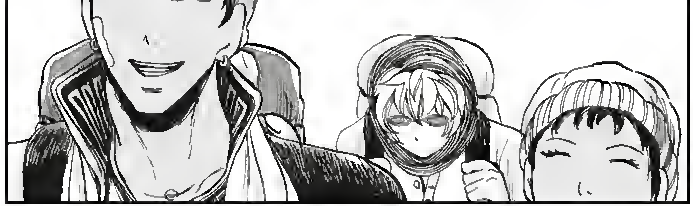
DRIP
DRIP
DRENCHED

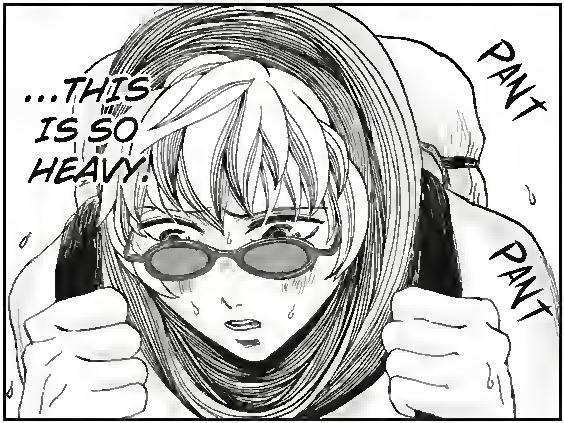
SHOULD WE STOP TO DRY YOUR CLOTHES?
UNGH
SO COLD
YOU SHOULD'VE ASKED FOR MY HELP


WET
MY LOWER HALF IS TOTALLY DRENCHED NOW..
I SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN LAZY. I SHOULD'VE TAKEN MY PANTS OFF.
DRIP
DRIP

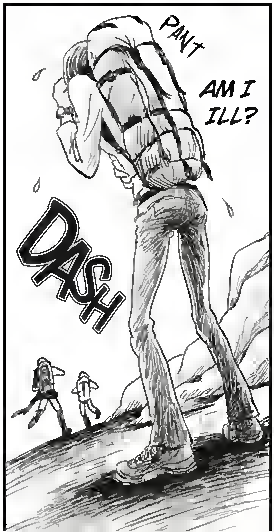
WHAT? I HAVE TO WALK IN WET CLOTHES ?
THEY WILL DRY OUT WHILE WE'RE WALKING.
SWOOSH

GLARING
THIS MOUNTAIN WE'RE WALKING ON IS...
...PART OF THE HIMALAYA MOUNTAINS
PANT
PANT
SO HOT.
PANT
PANT
THIS IS ROUGH
MY PANTS ARE MOSTLY DRY NOW BUT THE CROTCH AREA IS STILL WET AND UNCOMFORTABLE...
WHAT?
GASP
TOKUMARU-SAN, DO YOU FEEL ILL?
N-NO, WELL...
ALL FOURTEEN MOUNTAINS OVER 8,000 METERS ARE...
...HERE IN HIMALAYA.
AWESOME DON'T YOU THINK?
PANT
PANT
HEY, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
IT'S ABOUT THAT TIME WHEN EXHAUSTION TAKES OVER.
WELL, THE CELLPHONE INCIDENT IS GETTING ME DOWN...
OH, THAT'S IT?
THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO ABOUT THAT.
YEAH.
HE'LL LOOK DOWN ON ME IF I SAY I'M TIRED.

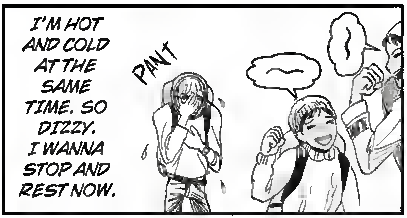


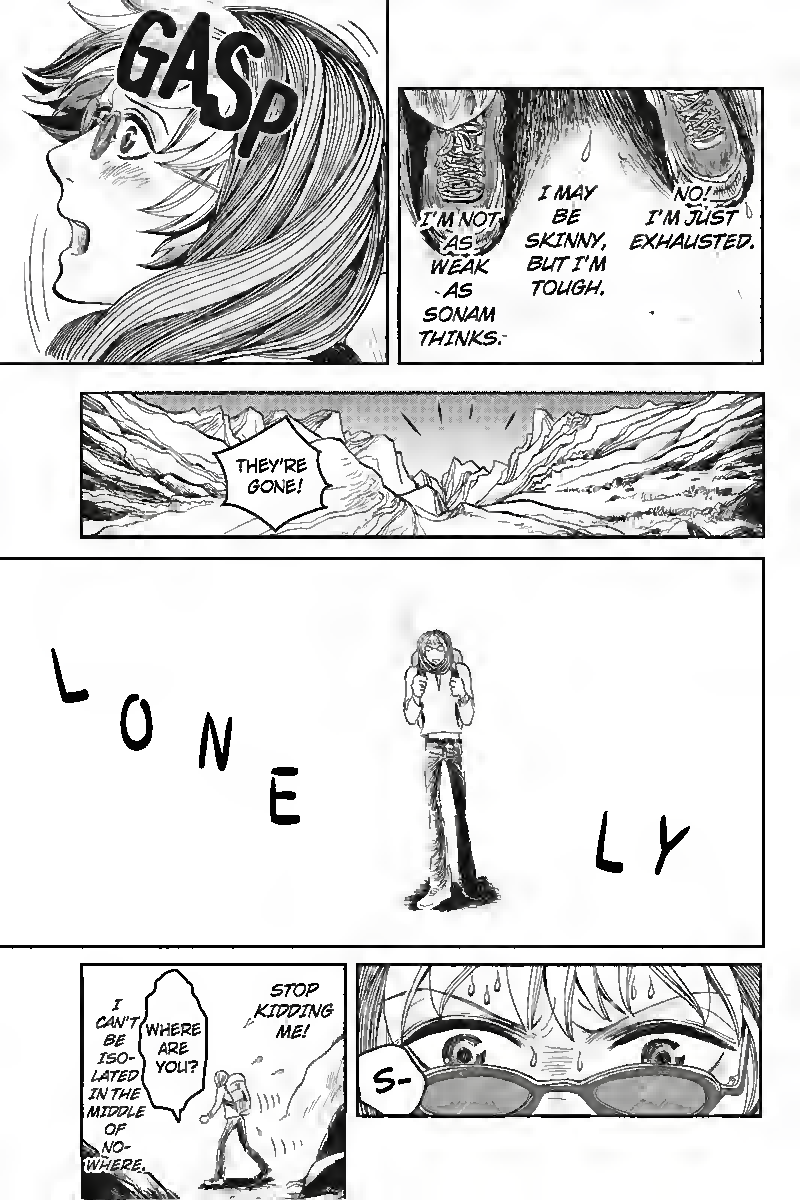

...THIS IS SO HEAVY.
PANT
PANT

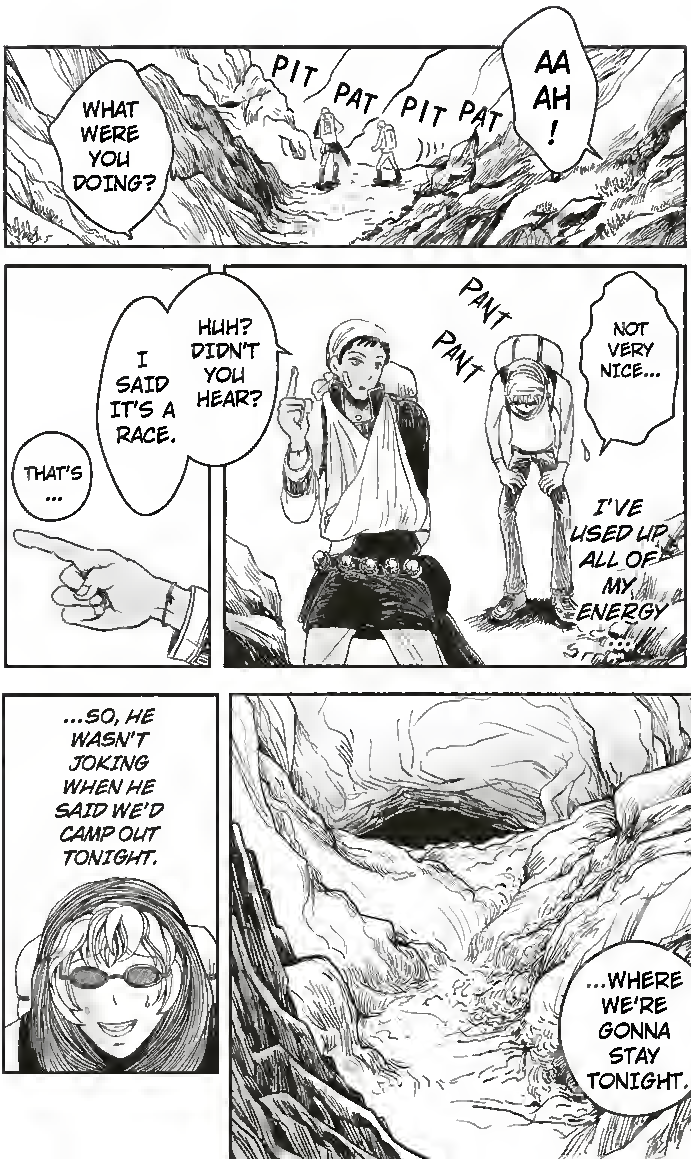
...
BUT...
HEAVY

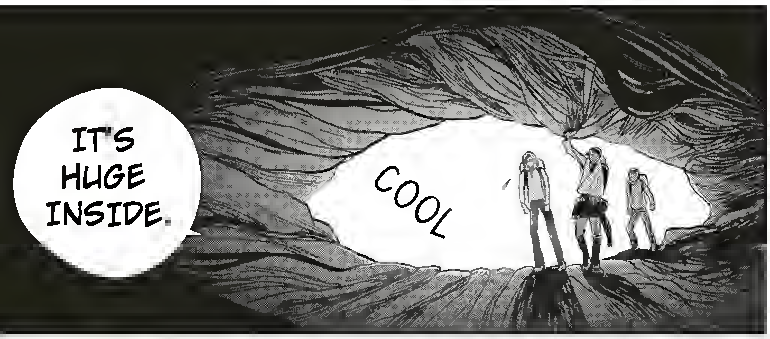

PANT
AM I ILL?
DASH

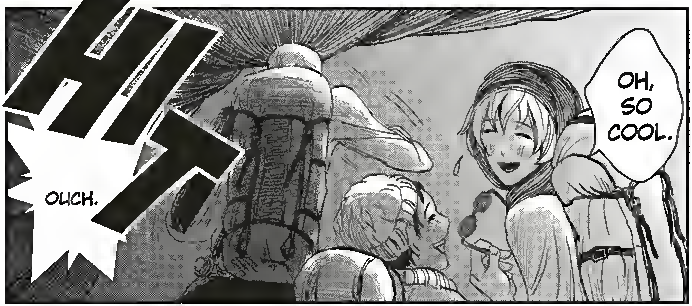
PANT
IT'S HARD TO WALK IN WET SHOES.
SQUISH
SQUISH
PANT
OH, WE CAN SEE THE PLACE WHERE WE'RE GONNA STAY.


I'M HOT AND COLD AT THE SAME TIME. SO DIZZY. I WANNA STOP AND REST NOW.
PANT


GASP
I'M NOT AS WEAK AS SONAM THINKS.
I MAY BE SKINNY, BUT I'M TOUGH.
NO! I'M JUST EXHAUSTED.
THEY'RE GONE!
LONELY
I CAN'T BE ISOLATED IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE.
WHERE ARE YOU?
STOP KIDDING ME!
S-

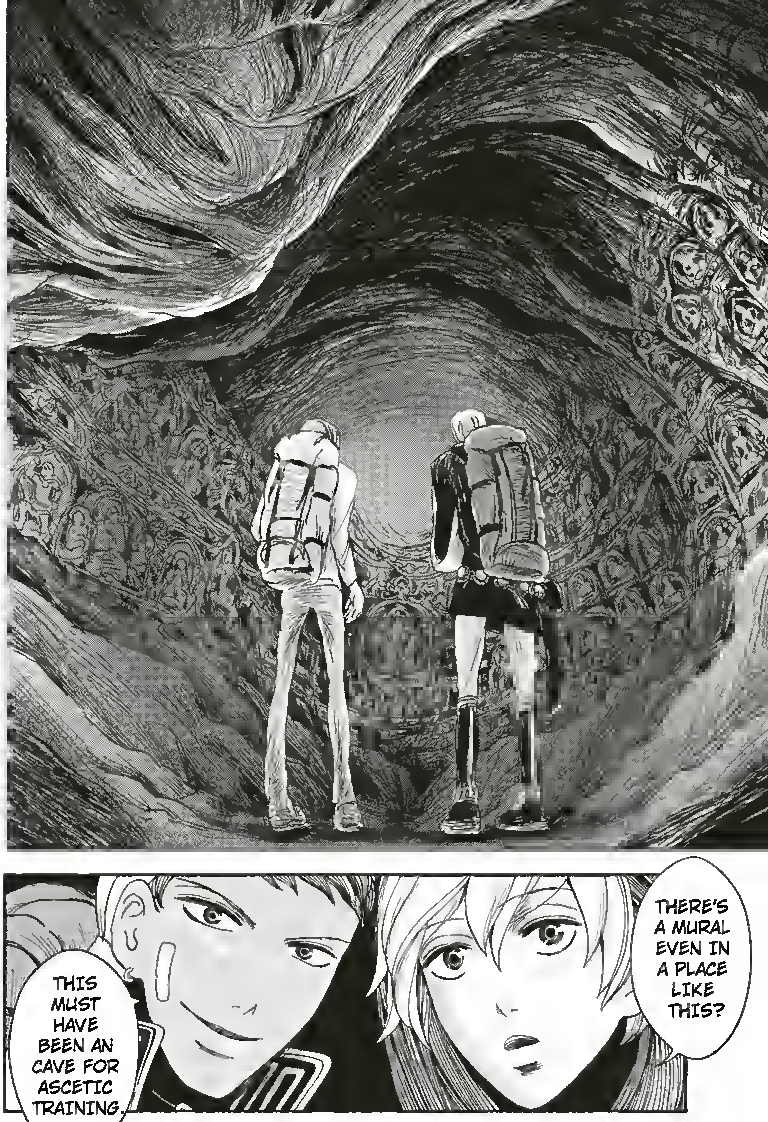

PIT PAT PIT PAT
AA AH !
WHAT WERE YOU DOING?
PANT PANT
NOT VERY NICE...
I'VE USED UP ALL OF MY ENERGY
HUH? DIDN'T YOU HEAR?
I SAID IT'S A RACE.
THAT'S ...
...SO, HE WASN'T JOKING WHEN HE SAID WE'D CAMP OUT TONIGHT.
...WHERE WE'RE GONNA STAY TONIGHT.


IT'S HUGE INSIDE.
COOL


HT
OUCH.
OH, SO COOL.

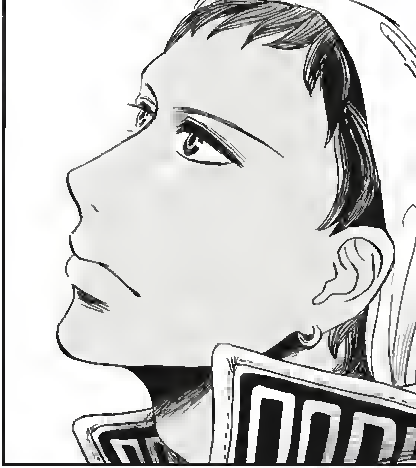
HUH?
MY EYES HAVEN'T ADJUSTED TO THE DARK YET.

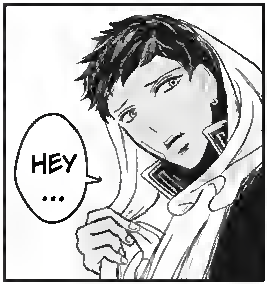
WATCH OUT. THERE'S A BUMP HERE.

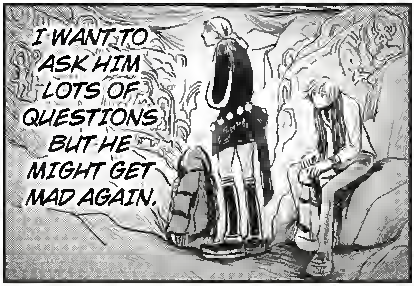

THERE'S A MURAL EVEN IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
THIS MUST HAVE BEEN AN CAVE FOR ASCETIC TRAINING.

IT'S DAMAGED BUT THEY MIGHT BE FROM THE 14TH OR 12TH CENTURY.
YOU KNOW A LOT.
I AM A PROFES-SIONAL GUIDE.
RIGHT
YEAH.
WAS THERE ANYTHING LIKE THIS AT THE TEMPLE YOU LIVED IN?
IT WASN'T VERY OLD.
THE GREAT CULTURAL REVOLUTION. CHINA...
I LIKE REALLY OLD ONES.
MANY OF THEM WERE DESTROYED DURING THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION AND REBUILT LATER.

...
MAYBE HE HAS GONE THROUGH THINGS A JAPANESE LIKE ME CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE.

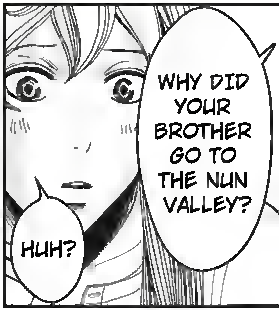


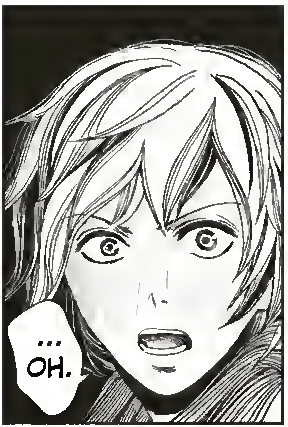

HEY ...

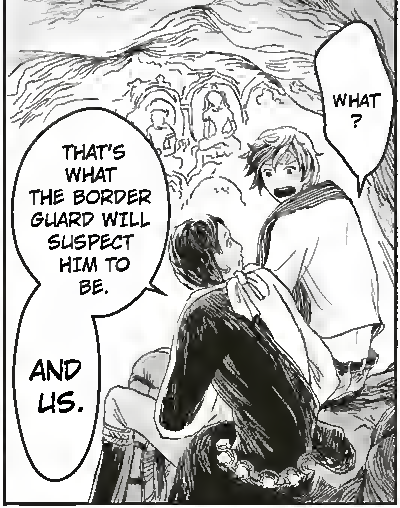

I WANT TO ASK HIM LOTS OF QUESTIONS BUT HE MIGHT GET MAD AGAIN.

A SPY?

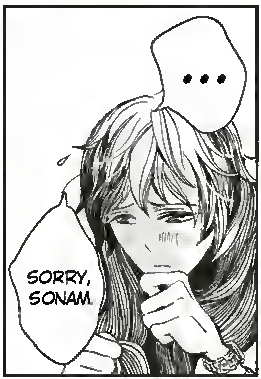
I WANT TO KNOW.
COULD HE BE ...


WHY DID YOUR BROTHER GO TO THE NUN VALLEY?
HUH?

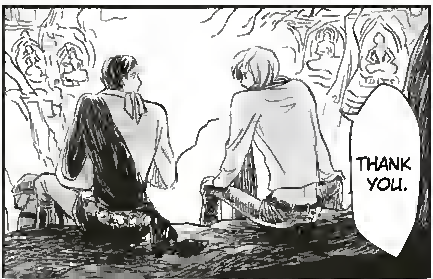

... OH.


WHAT ?
THAT'S WHAT THE BORDER GUARD WILL SUSPECT HIM TO BE.
AND US.

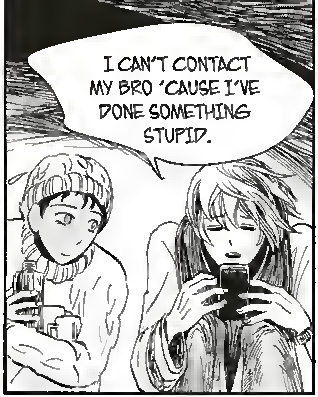
WE HAVE A GOOD REASON. WE'RE SEARCHING FOR A MAN.
DON'T APOLOGIZE. WE KNEW WHAT WE WERE GETTING INTO.


...
SORRY, SONAM.

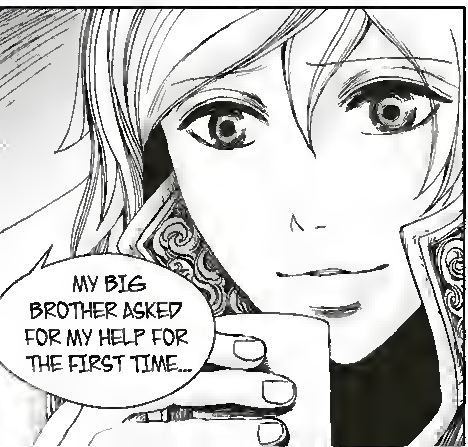
DON'T BE SO SERIOUS


THANK YOU.

...
...NOT TO TALK TO PEOPLE AND BE CAREFUL.
ANYWAY, THAT'S WHY I TELL YOU...
WE'RE DOING A VERY RISKY THING.
I HOPE MY SHOES'LL DRY.
COULD IT BE WORKING AGAIN?
MY CELL-PHONE
IS YOUR CELLPHONE WORKING?
UMM... NO.
I GUESS NOT.



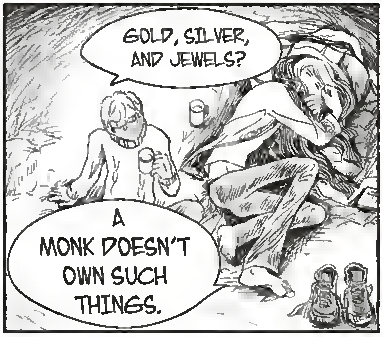
CHANG (ALSO SPELLED AS CHHANG) IS A TIBETAN ALCOHOL BEVERAGE.



...
I WONDER WHAT GRANDPA YOJIRO'S TREASURE THAT MY BRO WROTE ABOUT IS.

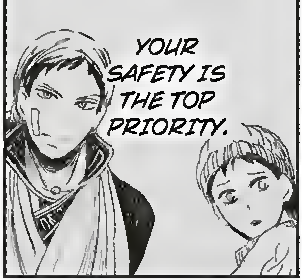
LAY
AND I BLEW IT.

SO, WAS YOUR GRANDPA A MONK TOO?

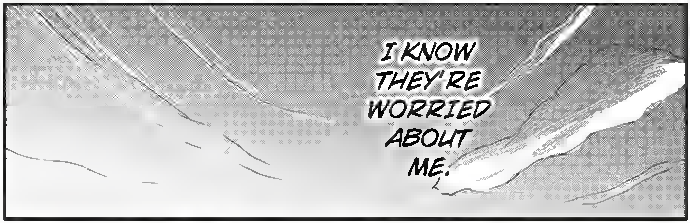

GOLD, SILVER, AND JEWELS?
A MONK DOESN'T OWN SUCH THINGS.

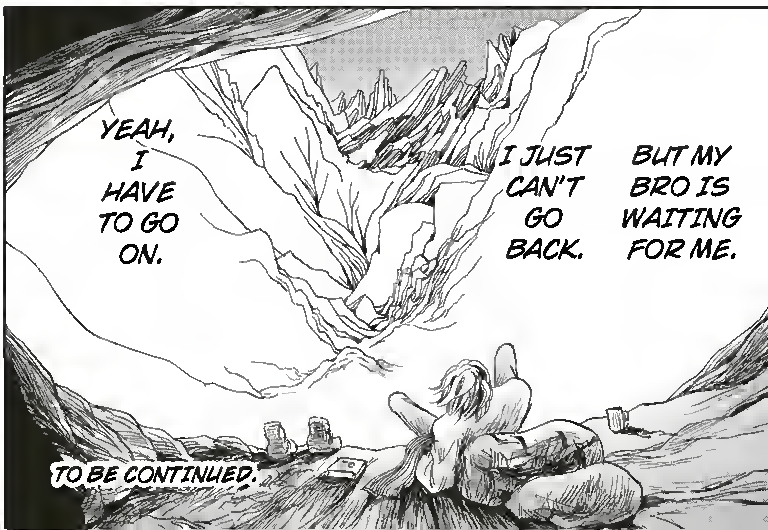
YEAH.
YEAH. BUT HE WAS WILD WHEN HE WAS YOUNG AND THOUGHT OF GETTING LAICIZED.
SONAM GOT LAICIZED.

A LITTLE.
DON'T TELL SONAM. I THINK I'M JUST TIRED.
BUT IF YOU GET REALLY SICK, WE'LL GO BACK TO LEHLI.
...
TOKUMARU-SAN, ARE YOU FEELING SICK?
COUGH
COUGH
YOUR SAFETY IS THE TOP PRIORITY.
I KNOW SONAM THINKS SO TOO.
HE MAY NOT LOOK IT, BUT HE TAKES HIS JOB SERIOUSLY.
WHAT?
WHY WOULD YOU SAY THAT TOO?
...
SOME PEOPLE HATE HIM BECAUSE OF HIS PERSONALITY, BUT I LIKE HIM 'CAUSE HE'S HONEST.
HE'S LIKE A LITTLE BROTHER.
DON'T TELL HIM


YOUR SAFETY IS THE TOP PRIORITY.

SIGH


I KNOW THEY'RE WORRIED ABOUT ME.


YEAH, I HAVE TO GO ON.
I JUST CAN'T GO BACK.
BUT MY BRO IS WAITING FOR ME.
TO BE CONTINUED.